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HISTORY REVEALED

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE
ISSUE 45 // AUGUST 2017 // £4.99

VICTORIAN SEASIDE
From pleasure piers to Punch & Judy

BRITAIN'S GREATEST ESCAPE

DUNKIRK

The true story of how 933 ships saved 338,000 men – and World War II

10 BIGGEST 'OOPS' MOMENTS
Could the Norman invasion have been prevented?

IMMEDIATE MEDIA
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MATA HARI
Was the exotic dancer a spy or a scapegoat?



BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE Why the Jacobite uprising failed

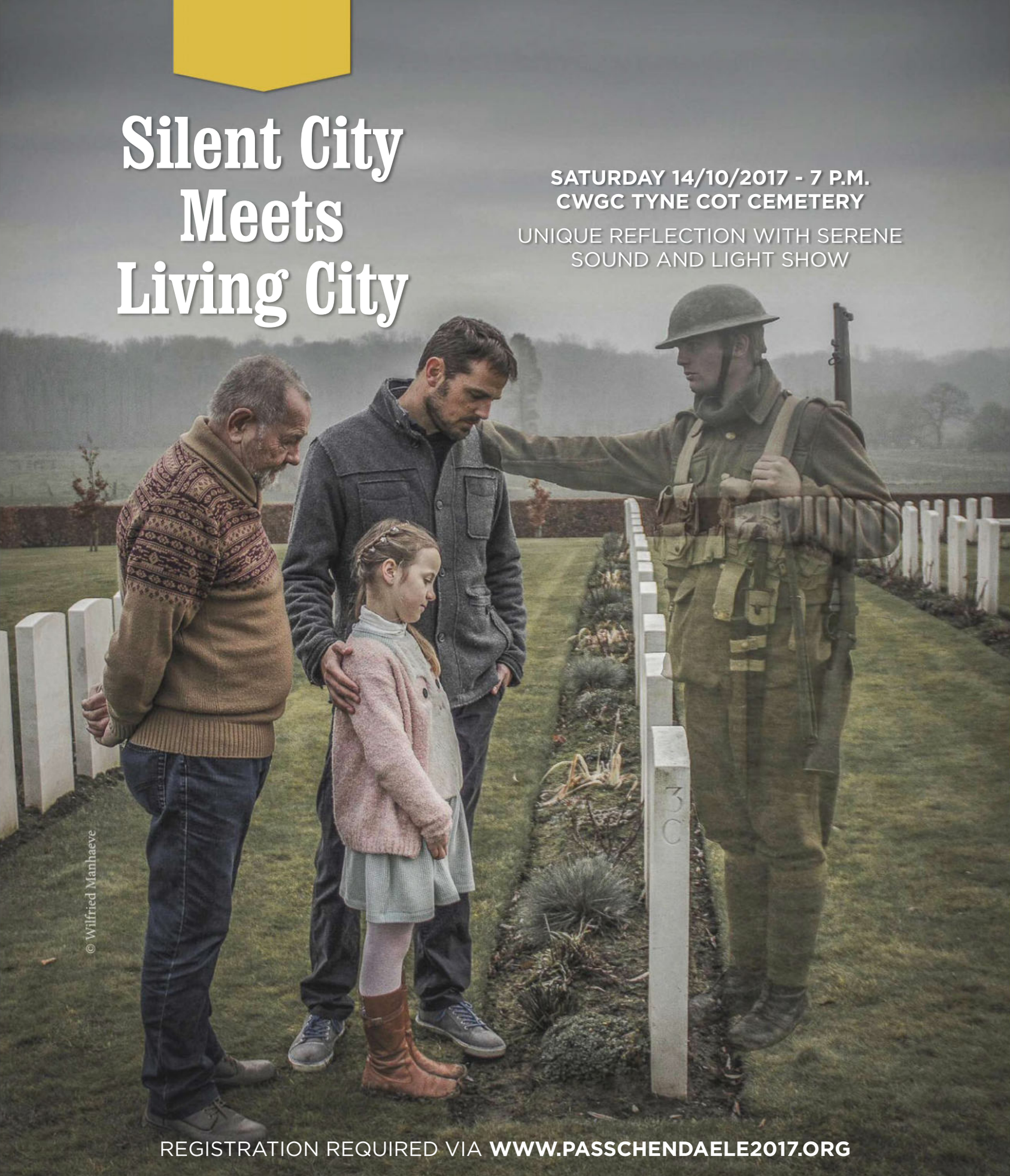


DEATH OF A KING
Elvis 40 years on

Silent City Meets Living City

SATURDAY 14/10/2017 - 7 P.M.
CWGC TYNE COT CEMETERY

UNIQUE REFLECTION WITH SERENE SOUND AND LIGHT SHOW



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ZONNEBEKE 14-18

With a little luck...



Sgt Charles Kemp didn't get to Dunkirk. Having become separated from the rest of his regiment, he endured **three weeks in occupied France** before making his escape from Cherbourg. Had he been caught, I wouldn't be writing this, as Sgt Kemp was my grandfather. So when I think of it, I think of **the 338,000 men** who were rescued from the hell that was Dunkirk as the lucky ones. But in such desperate times, anyone who survived was lucky, and without this luck, **what might have become of the world is unthinkable**. As the incredible exploits of those men is brought to life by a major Hollywood blockbuster, we tell the full story of **the miracle of Dunkirk** from page 34.

Elsewhere, we have our usual mix of lives and times long gone. We unravel how changes in **Victorian society gave us the classic seaside holiday** (*p60*); go on the march with Bonnie Prince Charlie (*p24*) as the **Scottish prince sought to claim the throne**; and **slap our collective foreheads** at the ten biggest mistakes ever made (*p46*). Enjoy the issue!

Paul McGuinness
Editor

ON THE COVER

Your key to the big stories...



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Don't miss our September issue, on sale 17 August

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THE PERFECT GIFT

Unravel the biggest mysteries from the past with this gripping new special edition from *History Revealed*. See p76 for more details.



THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

2¼
Hours that carrots should be cooked for, according to Mrs Beeton's 1857 recipe. *See page 82.*

1,800
Approximate distance in miles of Leif Erikson's voyage to North America. The Viking loaded 35 men into a second hand boat to make the crossing. *See page 48.*

700
Years that a soon-to-be-reopened gallery 70ft above the floor of Westminster Abbey has been closed. *See page 86.*

ON THE COVER: ARCANGEL IMAGES X1, ALAMY X4, GETTY X6, COVER IMAGE ENHANCEMENT - CHRIS STOCKERDESIGN.CO.UK

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The plight of Allied soldiers, desperate to make it home safely



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Witness the traumatic legacy of the partition of India

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What was Columbus's big mistake?

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Exotic dancer to spy: the sad tale of Mata Hari

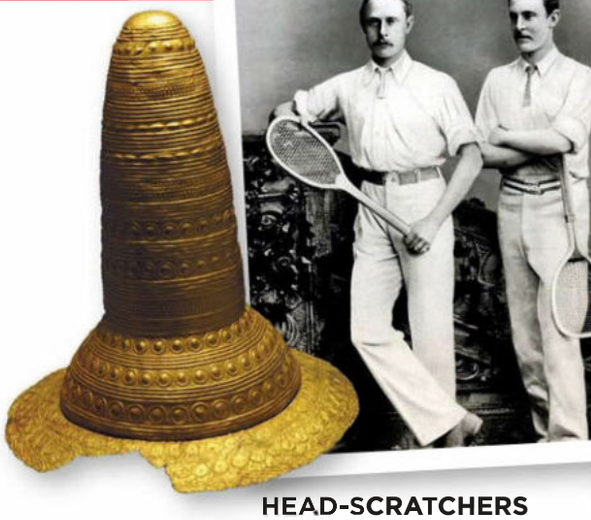
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On what date did life begin for the Mayans?

18
Cleopatra ends her life along with pharaonic rule

AUGUST 2017
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Why do tennis players wear white? What's this strange object? See p77 to find out

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ALAMY X1, GETTY X5, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS X1



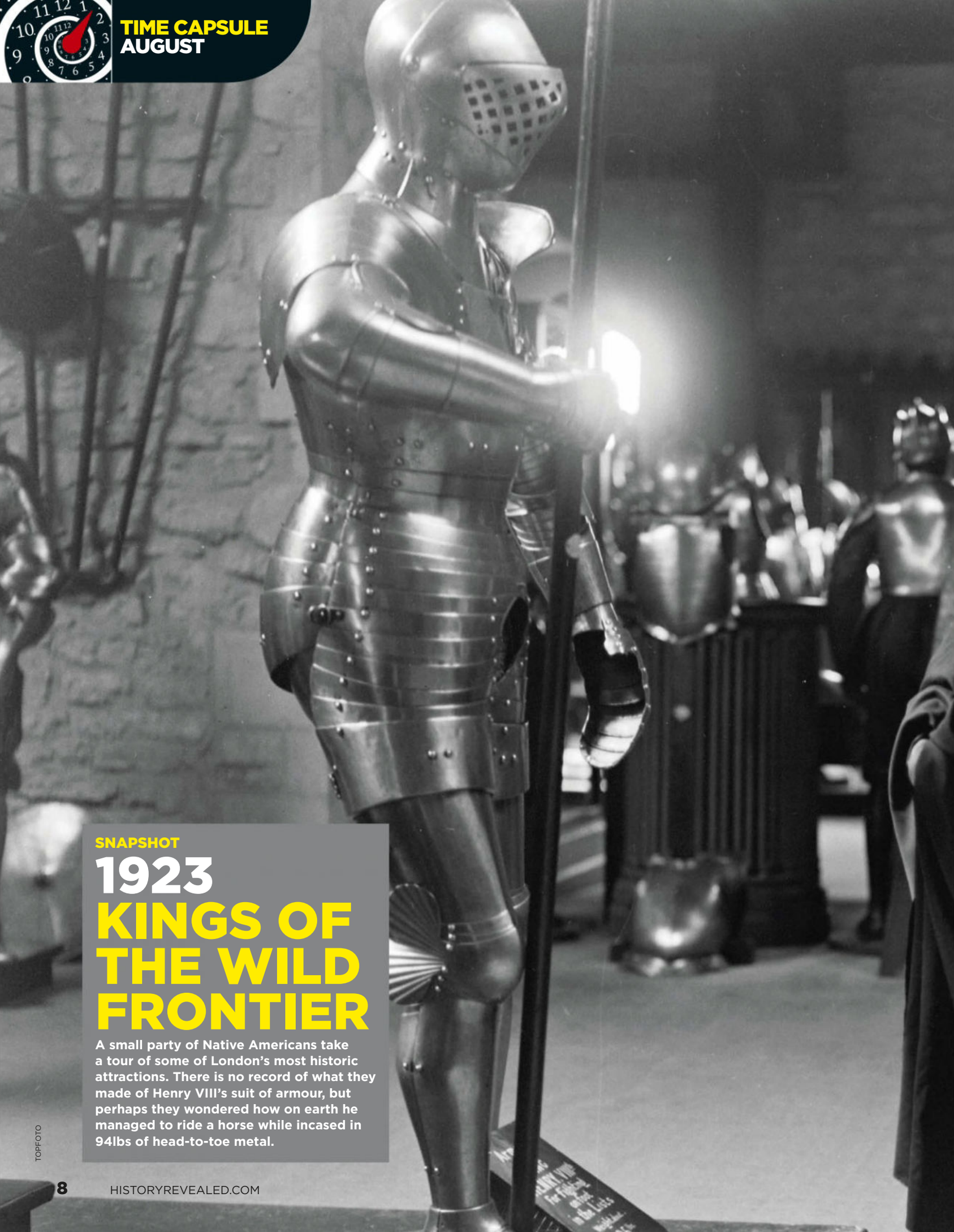
SNAPSHOT

1980 ALL MOD CONS

Police detain parka-clad youths in parcel trucks before putting them on a train straight out of Brighton. The south coast resort had been relatively quiet after the mods and rockers clashes of the 1960s, until the 1979 Brighton-based film *Quadrophenia* led to a mod revival. But they had a new enemy – the skinheads, who donned braces and Dr Martens boots. To the skinheads' dismay, the real-life fashion police soon stepped in with an easy way to keep the peace: officers made them remove their bootlaces, making kicking a much less effective fighting move.

PRESS ASSOCIATION





SNAPSHOT

1923 KINGS OF THE WILD FRONTIER

A small party of Native Americans take a tour of some of London's most historic attractions. There is no record of what they made of Henry VIII's suit of armour, but perhaps they wondered how on earth he managed to ride a horse while incased in 94lbs of head-to-toe metal.

TOPFOTO



SNAPSHOT

1936 GOLD RUSH

Jesse Owens of the USA wins the 100 metres at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, equalling the world record of 10.3 seconds. He also smashes the 200 metres and the long jump world records and bags his fourth gold medal as a member of the 4x400-metre relay team. Owens' outstanding performance, along with those of other African-American athletes, publicly undermines Hitler's belief in Aryan superiority, for which the Games were meant to be a showcase.



GETTY



"I READ THE NEWS TODAY..."

Weird and wonderful, it all happened in **August**



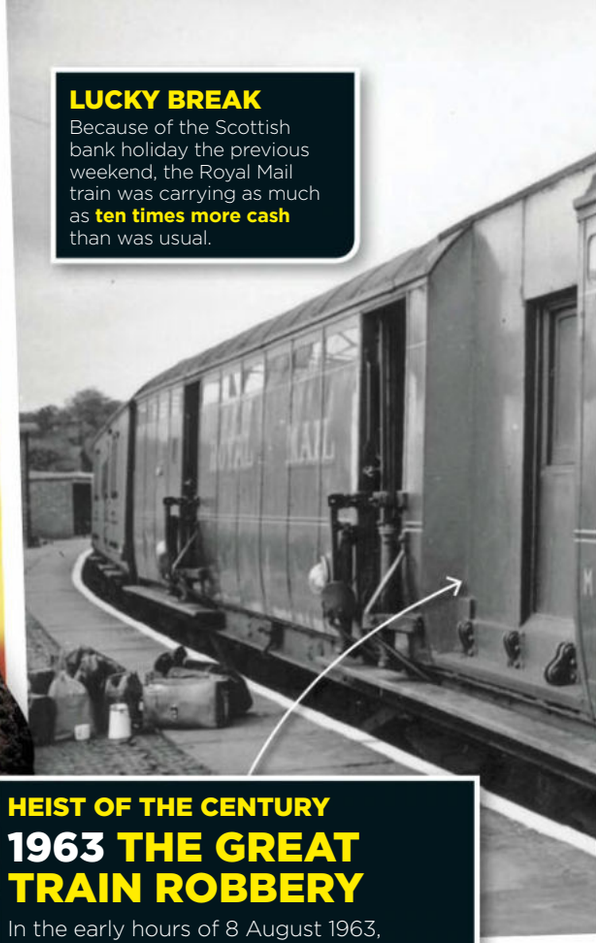
APOCALYPSE NOW

3114 BC THE START OF THE MAYAN CALENDAR

The Mayans had their own way of **recording time**. They devised a number of calendar systems, including the Mayan Long Count Calendar, which counted the number of days passed since a **mythical creation date**, which an American anthropologist identified as 11 August 3114 BC.

LUCKY BREAK

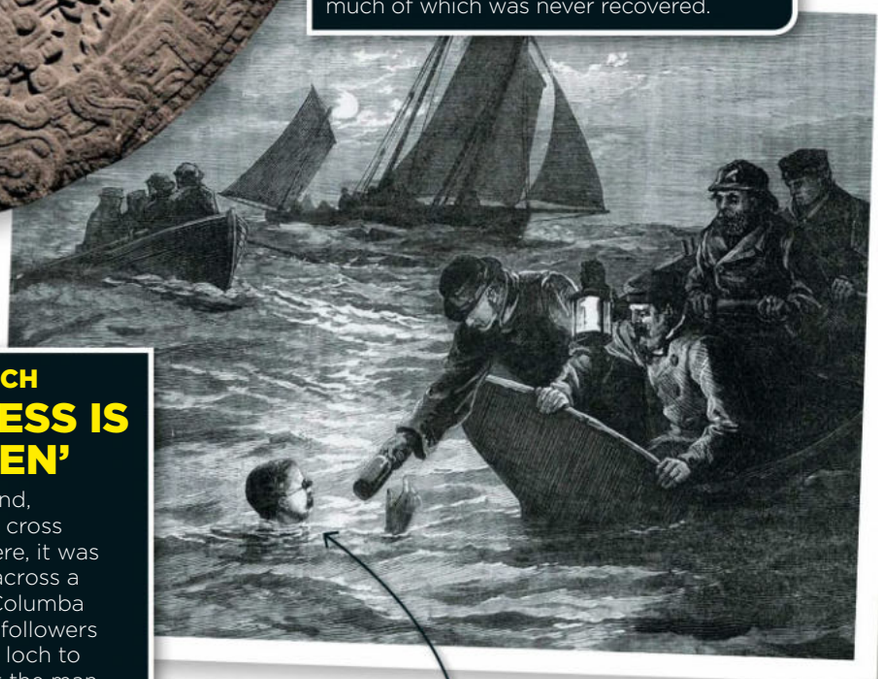
Because of the Scottish bank holiday the previous weekend, the Royal Mail train was carrying as much as **ten times more cash** than was usual.



HEIST OF THE CENTURY

1963 THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY

In the early hours of 8 August 1963, a gang of criminals robbed a London-bound Royal Mail train at Ledburn in Buckinghamshire. Around **£2.6 million** was stolen (£48 million in today's money), much of which was never recovered.





MONSTER MUNCH

AD 565 NESS IS FIRST 'SEEN'

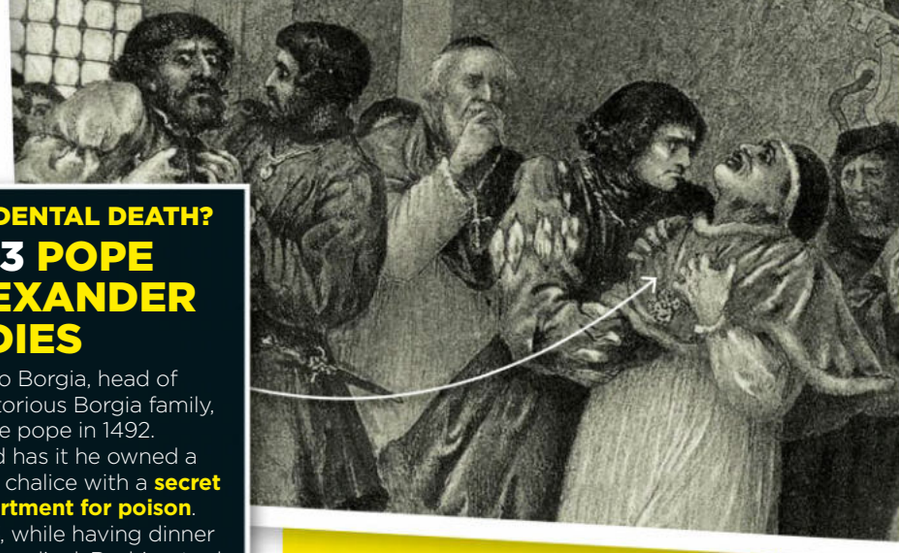
Travelling in Scotland, St Columba had to cross the Ness River where, it was claimed, he came across a "**water monster**". Columba ordered one of his followers to swim across the loch to retrieve a boat, but the man was greeted by the monster with its jaws open. Unfazed, Columba **made the sign of the cross**, commanding the beast to "go back at once". The monster promptly fled back underwater. It's a compelling account, except that it was written more than 100 years after the alleged event...

SWIM WHEN YOU'RE WINNING

1875 MATTHEW WEBB SWIMS CHANNEL

On 25 August 1875, daredevil Captain Matthew Webb became the first recorded person to swim the English Channel **without the use of artificial aids**. After smothering himself in porpoise oil to keep warm, Webb swam from Dover to Calais in under 22 hours, **soothing the jellyfish stings** he received on the way with a nip of brandy.





ACCIDENTAL DEATH?

1503 POPE ALEXANDER VI DIES

Rodrigo Borgia, head of the notorious Borgia family, became pope in 1492. Legend has it he owned a special chalice with a **secret compartment for poison**. In 1503, while having dinner with a cardinal, Rodrigo took violently ill and died. Had the Pope drunk from the poisoned grail he'd intended for his dinner guest?

LOOT AT SEA

1853 TREASURE SHIP DISAPPEARS

In August 1853, the *Madagascar* and its **cargo of gold** departed from Melbourne bound for London. She was never seen again. Rumours abounded that mutineers killed the captain but **accidentally capsized** the loot-filled ship.





CARELESS TALK

1984 RONNIE'S LOOSE TONGUE

US President Ronald Reagan caused alarm when, while **testing the microphone** ahead of his weekly address on National Public Radio, he used these ill-advised words: "My fellow Americans, I'm pleased to tell you today that I've signed legislation that will outlaw Russia forever. We **begin bombing** in five minutes..."

"...OH BOY"

August events that changed the world

5 AUGUST 910
VIKINGS VANQUISHED
The last major Viking army to raid England is defeated at the Battle of Tettenhall by the allied forces of Mercia and Wessex, led by King Edward and Earl Æthelred.

31 AUGUST 1422
ROYAL BABY
Henry VI becomes King of England at the age of nine months.

1 AUGUST 1834
OUT OF HUMAN BONDAGE
The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 comes into effect, outlawing slavery across the British Empire.

6 AUGUST 1945
MASS DESTRUCTION
The first atomic bomb is dropped by a United States aircraft on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, killing over 70,000 civilians.

18 AUGUST 1964
OLYMPIC NO-SHOW
South Africa is barred from taking part in the 18th Olympic Games in Tokyo over its refusal to condemn apartheid.

30 AUGUST 1980
POLE TO POLE
Polish workers win a sweeping victory in a battle with their Communist rulers for trade union recognition and the right to strike.

2 AUGUST 1990
IRAQI INVASION
At 2am, Iraq invades neighbouring Kuwait. Within 12 hours, Saddam Hussein has control of most of the country, precipitating the first Gulf War.

AND FINALLY...

To see how long it would take, in 1911 the *New York Times* sent out the first **circumnavigating telegram**. It was relayed at stations in the Philippines, Malta and the Azores, before returning to the operator just **16.5 minutes** later.

ALAMY X2, GETTY X4, TOPFOTO X1

THE Sun
Wednesday, August 17, 1977 6p TODAY'S TV PAGES 12 and 13

HE WAS 42 AND ALONE

KING ELVIS DEAD

A massive heart attack at mansion

From ROSS WABY in New York

ELVIS PRESLEY, the rock 'n' roll king who thrilled millions, died alone yesterday aged 42.

He was felled by a massive heart attack . . . and died in his mansion home before help could reach him.

Elvis, who had been ill for some time, was found by his road manager Joe Esposito.

Mr Esposito sent for an ambulance and tried to revive Elvis.

Then medical staff massaged the superstar's heart as the ambulance sped from his home in Memphis, Tennessee to the city's Baptist hospital.

The idol who had the whole world rocking
Pages 4 and 5

FATHER

Elvis's personal doctor, George Nichopoulos, who was in the ambulance, kept imploring the singer: "Come on, Presley, breathe. Breathe for me."

Doctors then battled for half an hour before announcing that he was dead.

Dr Nichopoulos said later that he suspected a heart attack was the cause of death, but this could not be confirmed until a post mortem examination.

Big crowds gathered outside the hospital, where Elvis's 61-year-old father, Vernon, went with other relatives after death was confirmed.

"I don't know why we are here — we're just paying our condolences," said a middle-aged woman who stood with a throng at the hospital gates.

The sudden death will shock millions of Elvis fans world-wide.

But it was no surprise to those close to him.

For Elvis, the poor boy who became the world's highest paid performer, was the victim of his own phenominal success.

His millions enabled him to indulge his every whim, and that led to his undoing and his death.

His fondness for junk food — hamburgers and soft drinks — became an addiction, as did his thirst for thrills and experiences . . . and drugs.

Elvis sought kicks with cars, motorcycles, women, parties, guns, pinball machines, pool tables and no timetable.

He liked to stay up late — all night if he was enjoying himself — surrounded by the cousins and bodyguards that comprised his "Memphis Mafia."

DRUGS

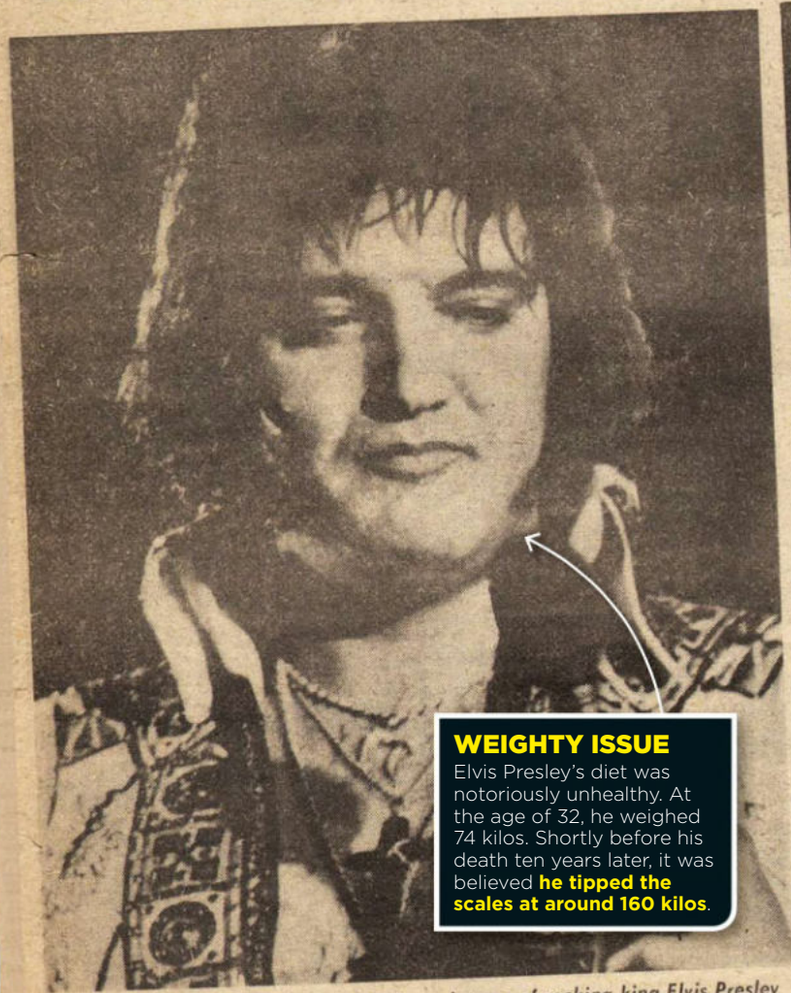
To keep his body going as he sated himself, he turned more and more to drugs.

Red West, a bodyguard, said recently: "He takes pills to go to sleep, he takes pills to get up, he takes pills to go to the lavatory, and he takes pills to stop him from going."

West, sacked last year, after a row with his boss and boyhood friend, revealed the extent of Elvis's drug taking.

"He was a walking pharmaceutical shop. He takes uppers and downers and all sorts of very strong painkillers — percodan

Continued on Page Two



WEIGHTY ISSUE
Elvis Presley's diet was notoriously unhealthy. At the age of 32, he weighed 74 kilos. Shortly before his death ten years later, it was believed **he tipped the scales at around 160 kilos**.

FAT AND FORTY . . . One of the last pictures of rocking king Elvis Presley on stage in America His overeating made him a tragic sight

DUCHESS BIDS TO HALT TV SERIES—Page 2

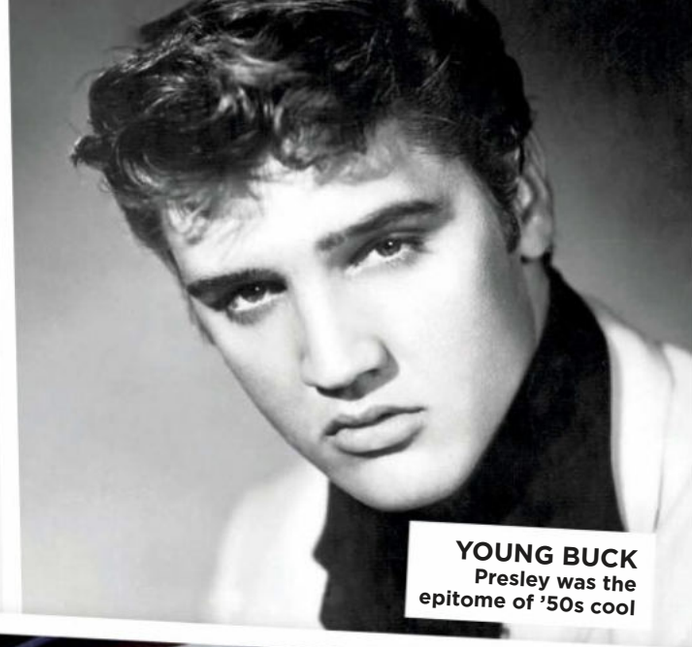
GETTY X2, REX/SHUTTERSTOCK X1

YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

On **16 August 1977**, the King of Rock and Roll passed away at his Graceland home in Memphis

"ELVIS PRESLEY'S DEATH DEPRIVES OUR COUNTRY OF A PART OF ITSELF"

PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER



YOUNG BUCK Presley was the epitome of '50s cool



Behind the glittery jumpsuits and slicked-back hair, Elvis Presley was slowly dying. Though his successful and glamorous music career was the envy of many a musician, it had a severe impact on Presley's physical – and mental – health.

Born a poor boy in the Deep South, the young Elvis was unprepared for superstardom. When he was discovered in his late teens, he was still working odd jobs. The next 20 years would see him performing both on the stage and the silver screen. But after his marriage broke down in 1972, his health began a slow decline. He started to overdose on sleeping pills and had once ended up in a three-day coma. His colleagues worried about him, but he pressed on, apparently in denial about his physical condition.

By 1977, Presley was severely overweight and barely able to make it through his live shows. A shadow of the man he once was, he could no longer perform his famous dance moves – and fans had noticed. The straw that broke the camel's back came when three disgruntled bodyguards released a book, detailing Elvis's years of drug abuse. He was found dead on the bathroom floor of his Graceland mansion soon afterwards, apparently from a mixture of various medications. He was 42.

Thousands of people flocked to Graceland to see his open-casket funeral. People mourned and wept – and some secretly photographed the body and sold their story to national newspapers. A couple of months after his death, it was alleged that an attempt was made to steal his body. He was soon reburied in his meditation garden, beside his mother and grandmother. His grave still attracts thousands of visitors to this day.

LONESOME TONIGHT ABOVE: **An overweight Elvis with his girlfriend Linda Thompson returns to his hotel following a concert in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1976** RIGHT: **Some 30,000 fans passed through the gates at Elvis's Graceland mansion to view his casket**



FINAL FANFARE An estimated **80,000 people** lined the streets of Memphis as Presley's body was taken the four miles from Graceland to Forest Hill Cemetery.

1977 ALSO IN THE NEWS...

17 AUGUST The Soviet icebreaker *Arktika* becomes the first ship to reach the North Pole. Upon their return, each member of the 200-strong crew are decorated with medals.

20 AUGUST American satellite *Voyager 2* is launched into space. Forty years on, its voyage is ongoing, the results of which continue to update our understanding of the farthest reaches of our solar system.

26 AUGUST The legislature of Quebec passes Bill 101, a law that decrees French to now be the official "normal and everyday" language of the Canadian province.

GRAPHIC HISTORY

The story of a Parisian landmark

1793 THE MUSÉE DU LOUVRE OPENS ITS DOORS

The Louvre's transformation from palace to public museum was considered a grand gesture of Republican values

For more than 200 years, the Louvre palace was a glorious showcase of the French monarchy's decadence. Originally, a fortress had stood on its site, built in the 12th century to protect Paris against attacks. But by the 14th century, the city's borders had been far extended, and the fort fell into disuse.

In 1527, King Francis I ordered its destruction, and built a lavish, Renaissance-style palace in its place. For a while it was the main residence of French kings, until the completion of Versailles, when the Louvre was left to house the royal collection. But following the French Revolution in 1789, the National Assembly decreed that it should be transformed into a public museum. Four years later, it opened its doors, allowing France's citizens and visitors a chance to enjoy the cultural creations that had previously been for the very wealthy's eyes only.

THE MUSÉE NAPOLÉON

During the reign of Emperor Napoleon, the Louvre overflowed with the spoils of war. Artists accompanied him on his campaigns, 'rescuing' any artworks they believed were at threat in their native countries. The plunder was paraded through the streets of Paris before arriving at its new home – the recently rechristened 'Musée Napoléon'.

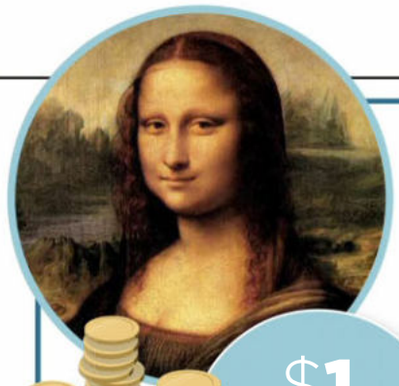


380 THOUSAND

The number of objects in the museum



INFOGRAPHIC: EDWARD CROOKS/WWW.EDWARDCROOKS.CO.UK, GETTY X2

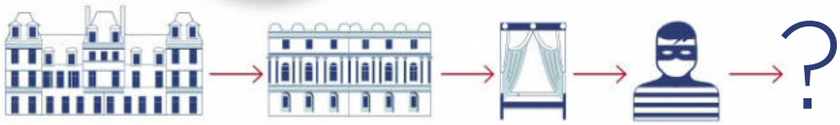


THE MONA LISA: THE LOUVRE'S PIÈCE DE RÉSISTANCE

According to myth, King Francis I was by Leonardo da Vinci's side when he died, which is how he acquired the famous painting. But the *Mona Lisa* hasn't always hung in the Louvre. It was displayed at Fontainbleu and Versailles before eventually being moved to the museum after the fall of the monarchy. Later, it hung above Napoleon's bed, and in 1911 it was stolen by an Italian criminal. During World War II, it was shuttled off to a secret location.



$1 BILLION
The *Mona Lisa*'s estimated value





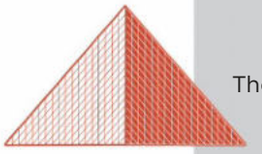
WORLD WAR II: THE DARK DAYS OF THE LOUVRE

When news of the Nazi invasion arrived, the contents of the Louvre were taken to private châteaux in the French countryside for safe keeping. With nothing left to display, the Nazis made use of the museum as a clearing house for art that they had confiscated from rich French families – mostly Jewish ones.

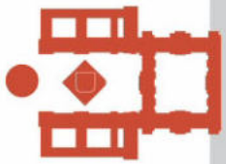


WHAT'S IN A NAME?
Some believe 'Louvre' to be a play on 'l'œuvre', meaning 'artwork' in French

IN NUMBERS:



21m
HEIGHT
The height of the tallest glass pyramid



60,600m²
TOTAL AREA
Making it the world's largest museum



7.4m
VISITORS IN 2016



131
DAYS
The time it would take to see every object in the museum, spending 30 seconds at each one

2,000
MEMBERS OF STAFF

500
The number of artworks on display in the Louvre's first exhibit in 1793. Many of them had been confiscated from the royal family and the church

35,000
WORKS NOW ON DISPLAY

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

The queen of Egypt tries to use her charms to keep control of the kingdom

30 BC CLEOPATRA COMMITS SUICIDE

The death of Cleopatra VII saw Egypt absorbed into the Roman Empire and its status reduced to a mere province

Cleopatra was the last of the Egyptian pharaohs. When she took her own life, it marked the end of the Ptolemaic dynasty that ruled Egypt since the death of Alexander the Great in 304 BC. It also enabled Octavian, who would become Augustus, the first Roman emperor, to get his hands on her lands.

Cleopatra had a history of staking the fortunes of her nation on Roman men. Firstly, she plumped for Julius Caesar and then, following his assassination, his staunch supporter Mark Antony. A third, however, would prove to be beyond even her legendary powers of persuasion.

Together, Antony and Cleopatra had tried to stop Octavian's path to power, combining their armies in a bid to defeat him. The conflict reached a climax at the legendary Battle of Actium in Greece. The ferocious encounter did not go well for the Queen of Egypt and her Roman general, and they were forced to flee back to Egypt.

With Octavian's troops marching towards Alexandria, Antony rejoined the battle. Cleopatra, meanwhile, hid herself away in her mausoleum, along with her treasure and two maidservants. Antony picked up information that Cleopatra was dead. Devastated, he fell upon his sword, saying, according to Ancient Greek biographer Plutarch: "I am not pained to be bereft of you, for at once I will be where you are, but it does pain me that I, as a commander, am revealed to be inferior to a woman in courage."

Antony then received word that Cleopatra was still alive. Fatally wounded, he was taken to her. The queen was distraught but, before he succumbed to death, Antony asked her to make peace with Octavian.

THE END OF EGYPT?

Octavian, however, wasn't doing any deals. He wanted Cleopatra as a trophy to parade in Rome but, rather than submit, she too committed suicide. Legend has it she did this by encouraging a snake to bite her, although her two handmaidens died at the same time, suggesting that some other form of poisoning saw her off.

While Cleopatra's demise might have taken the edge off of Octavian's victory parade, he was greeted back in Rome as the conquering hero. He now had absolute power over the richest kingdom along the Mediterranean Sea. Egypt had become a mere province for Rome, one of the largest, most powerful empires of the ancient world, to plunder. In 27 BC, Octavian became Augustus, the first Roman emperor. Egypt remained under Roman rule until the 7th century.

CLEOPATRA'S DEMISE
Having shut herself in her mausoleum, Cleopatra reportedly encouraged an asp (an Egyptian cobra) to **fatally bite her**. According to Plutarch, her guards found her "stone-dead, lying upon a bed of gold, set out in all her royal ornaments".

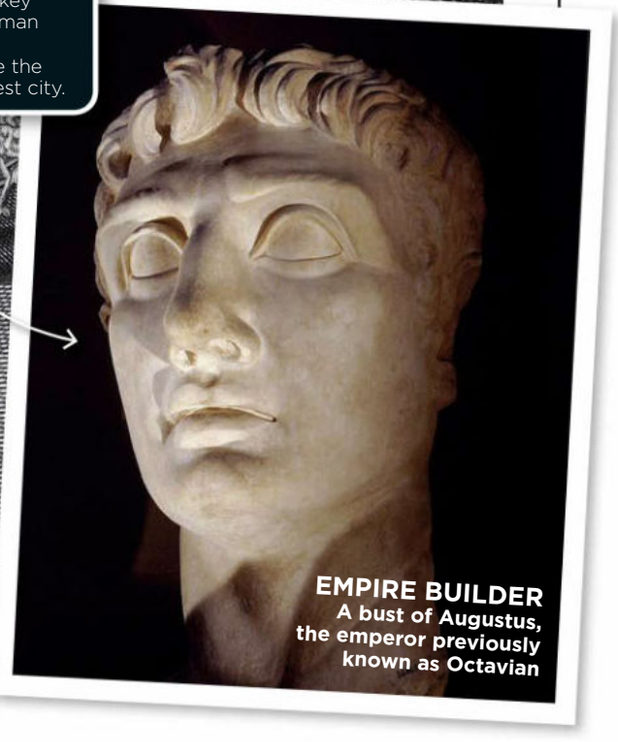


GRIM DISCOVERY
This engraving replicates the point at which Cleopatra and her maids were found dead

GETTY X2

“Octavian now had the richest kingdom along the Mediterranean Sea”

BOOMING ECONOMY
After Egypt was annexed by Octavian, it was renamed Aegyptus and became – thanks to its **prodigious grain production** – a key contributor to the Roman economy. The port of Alexandria grew to be the empire’s second-largest city.



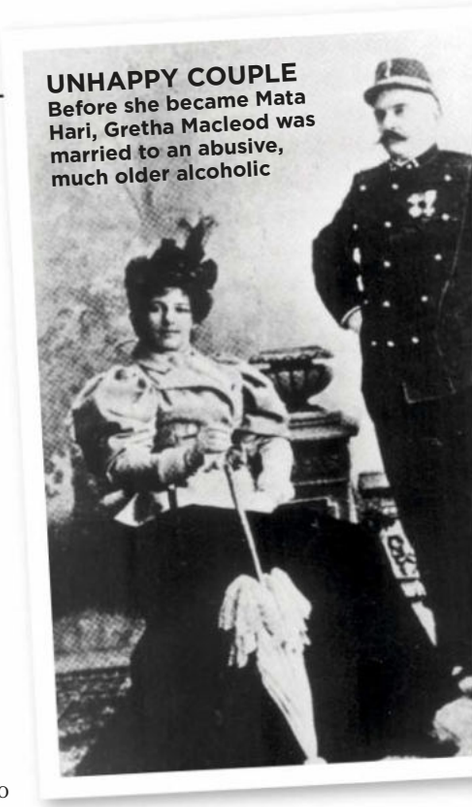
EMPIRE BUILDER
A bust of Augustus, the emperor previously known as Octavian

THE EXTRAORDINARY TALE OF...

Mata Hari, the exotic dancer whose numerous dalliances led her to be convicted as a World War I spy

1876 THE BIRTH OF MATA HARI

She dabbled in low-grade espionage and high-society men. But was she really the femme fatale of legend who deserved her death by firing squad?



UNHAPPY COUPLE
Before she became Mata Hari, Gretha Macleod was married to an abusive, much older alcoholic

Dutch exotic dancer Margaretha 'Gretha' MacLeod – better known as Mata Hari – has the dubious reputation of being the world's deadliest female secret agent. Convicted of passing classified information to the enemy, her prosecutors damned her as the greatest woman spy of the century, responsible for sending 50,000 Allied soldiers to their deaths. But was she more scapegoat than spymaster?

Her story begins on 7 August 1876. She was born in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands, into a prosperous family – her father, Adam Zelle, owned a hat shop and invested in the oil industry. But when Gretha was a teenager, he went bankrupt, her parents divorced and her mother died. She was sent to live with her godfather, then later, her uncle.

Shaking off this fractured childhood and an unsuccessful stint as a trainee kindergarten teacher, at 18, Gretha answered a newspaper advertisement. It was placed by Dutch Army Captain Rudolf MacLeod, who was looking for a wife. They married in Amsterdam in 1895, moved to Java and had two children – Norman-John and Louise Jeanne, known as 'Non'.

The marriage gave Gretha financial security, but it wasn't happy. Rudolf, 20 years her senior, was an abusive alcoholic. Gretha briefly abandoned him, throwing herself into studying Indonesian traditions and joining a local dance company. In 1897, when writing home to relatives in the Netherlands, she signed her letters 'Mata Hari'. This was her new artistic name, meaning 'eye of the day' in Malay.

She went back to Rudolf, but the cycle of drinking and beatings continued. Her children then experienced serious illness; some alleged their ailments were connected to the syphillis they'd contracted from their parents. Non survived, but Norman-John, aged two, died.

> **"The woman who had been viewed as a free-spirited bohemian before the war now looked like a suspicious seductress"**

TRIAL SEPARATION

The family moved back to the Netherlands but the couple separated in 1902, with Gretha awarded custody of Non. Rudolf was legally required to pay support, but he never did. Without financial help or family connections, and with most professions barred to women, Gretha had few choices. She reluctantly returned Non to her father and left for Paris.

In the French capital, Gretha tried to make money giving piano lessons and teaching German. Less seemly, but more lucrative, was sitting as an artist's model for Montmartre painters, where she also made theatrical contacts. All things oriental were the fad in the Paris of 1905 and the time was ripe for Mata Hari, in her full incarnation, to bloom. She billed herself as a Javanese princess and her exotic dance performances took Paris by storm. Yet, while the fictional persona she'd created transformed her into an icon, it would later contribute to her downfall.

Her star shone brightly until 1910, by which time she had many imitators. Critics, once dazzled by the daringly decorous Mata Hari, began to snub her act as cheap exhibitionism. Her final show was in 1915. Always resourceful, Mata Hari became a successful courtesan. Her dalliances with powerful men of the day, from the ranks of politics and the military, allowed her to travel greatly. But her movements attracted attention. The woman viewed as a free-spirited bohemian before the war, now looked more like a wanton and suspicious seductress.

She was also in an intense relationship with a 25-year-old Russian pilot – Captain Vadim Maslov, serving with the French. In 1916, after Maslov had been shot down and grievously injured, Gretha visited him in hospital. There she was intercepted by French intelligence agents who explained that, unless she agreed to spy on Germany, she wouldn't be permitted to see her lover.

ULTERIOR MOTIVES

Before the war, Mata Hari had performed before Crown Prince Wilhelm, eldest son of Kaiser Wilhelm II, and now a senior general on the Western Front. The French believed Mata Hari could seduce him for military secrets, offering her a sizeable sum if she could come up with the goods. The contact who set this up was Captain Georges Ladoux. He would later emerge as one of her principal accusers.

In late 1916, Mata Hari met with German military attaché Major Arnold Kalle, to request a meeting with the prince. She fed Kalle odd bits of gossip, hoping for information in exchange. On her return journey, her steamer called at Falmouth. She was arrested and interrogated at the Savoy Hotel, where she admitted working for the French intelligence service. In January 1917, Major Kalle transmitted easily decodable radio messages to Berlin, detailing the assistance

ALAMY X2, GETTY X1



TOP SECRET

French intelligence papers, which may finally indicate the depth of Mata Hari's involvement in spying, are **due to be declassified** and released later this year.

of a German spy, codenamed H-21. As planned, these were intercepted by the French who identified Mata Hari to be H-21.

On 13 February 1917, following her return to Paris, she was arrested in her hotel room and thrown in a rat-infested cell at the Prison Saint-Lazare, allowed only to see only her elderly lawyer, Edouard Clunet. She was put on trial on 24 July, accused of spying for Germany and causing the deaths of thousands of soldiers.

Then Mata Hari dropped a bombshell confession. She revealed that she had accepted 20,000 francs from a German to spy on France, but had only offered trivial, inconsequential information as her adopted country of France was the recipient of her loyalty. "A courtesan, I admit it. A spy, never!" she defiantly exclaimed. But when she admitted that a German officer paid her for sexual favours, it was interpreted as espionage money.

The military tribunal deliberated for less than 45 minutes before returning a guilty verdict. Refusing a blindfold and blowing a kiss at the riflemen, she was executed by firing squad on 15 October 1917.

We may never know for sure whether she was guilty of the crimes for which she was convicted. She may well be yet another victim of prejudice.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Was Mata Hari a German super-spy or a scapegoat for military mistakes?

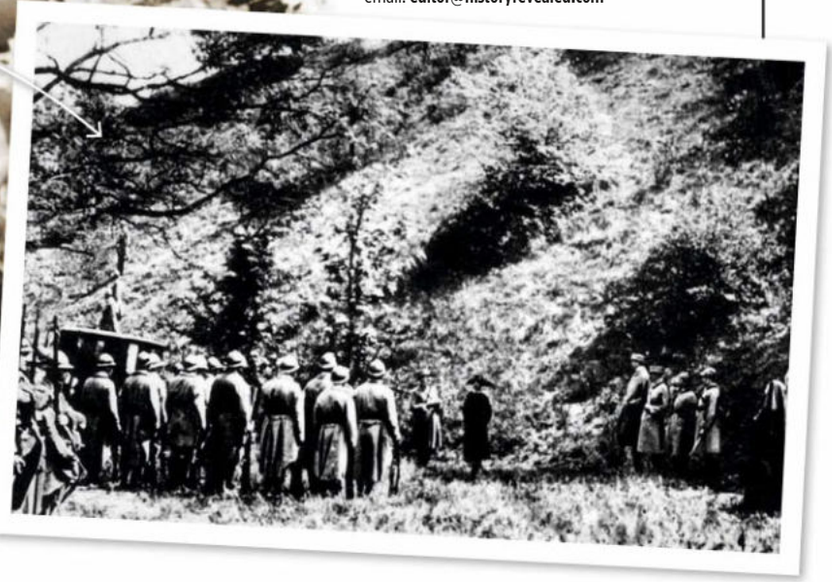
email: **editor@historyrevealed.com**

PUBLIC DISPLAY

After her execution in 1917, Mata Hari's body was left uncollected by any members of her family and instead was **used for medical research**. Her embalmed head went on display in Paris but was subsequently stolen.

FINAL FAREWELL

Found guilty of espionage, Mata Hari faced a firing squad of 12 French soldiers. She said goodbye to this world by blowing a kiss to her executioners



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HISTORY REVEALED Bringing the past to life

FOREVER YOUNG
This bronze statue of Bonnie Prince Charlie in Derby marks the southernmost point reached by his Jacobite rebellion – aka the Forty-Five



FAMILY IN EXILE
James VII of Scotland and II of England (*right*) after being deposed

IN A NUTSHELL

WHO WERE THE JACOBITES?

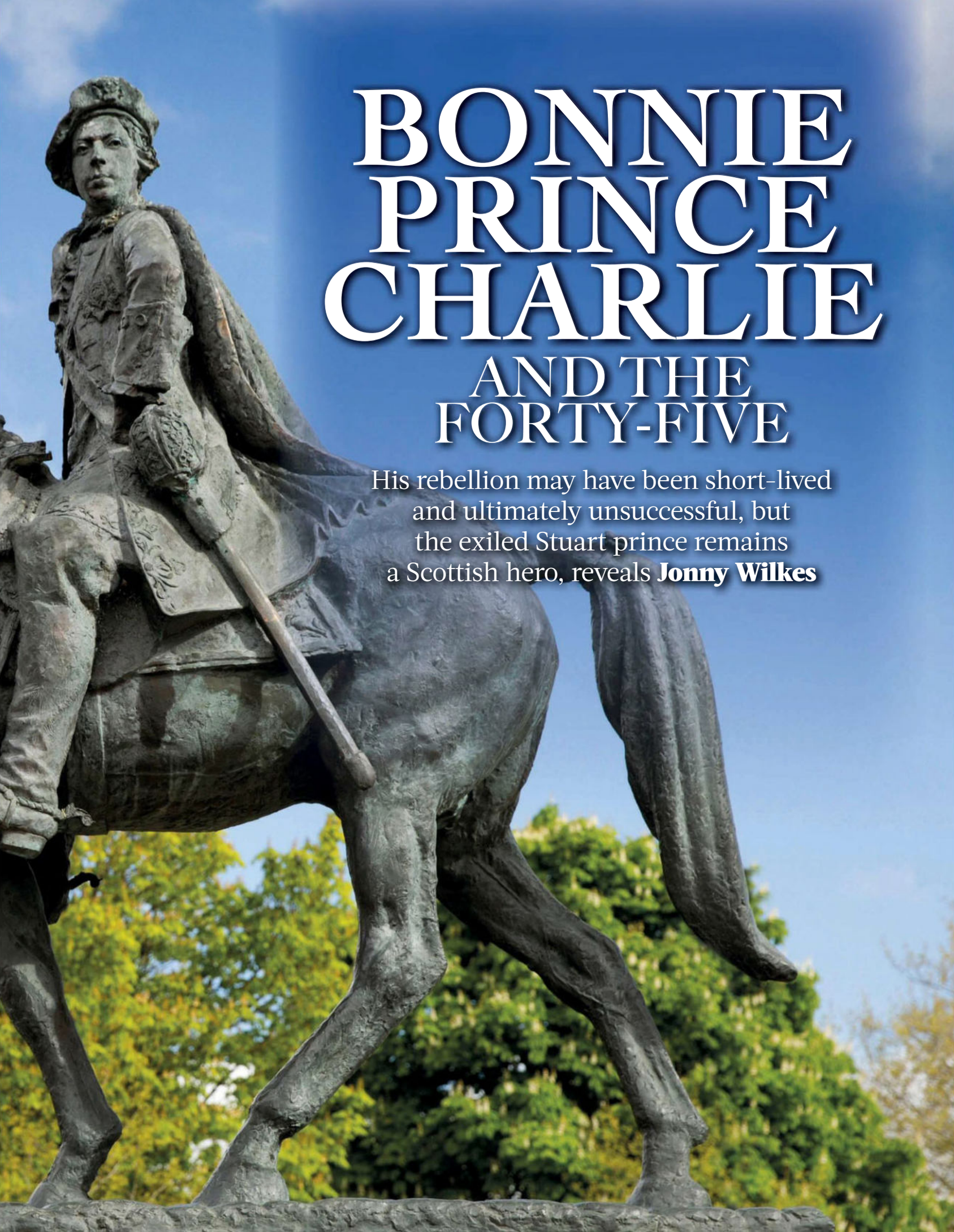
Their name taken from the Latin word for 'James', the Jacobites spent decades attempting to restore King James II of England and Ireland and VII of Scotland, along with his Stuart descendants.

After reigning for three years, the unpopular Roman Catholic king – Bonnie Prince Charlie's grandfather – had been deposed and sent into exile during the so-called Glorious Revolution of 1688. His Protestant daughter Mary and her husband William of Orange (the most powerful man in the Netherlands) took power.

The passing of the 1701 Act of Settlement then forbade Catholics from succeeding, meaning the stronger claim of James's son (James Francis Edward, the Old Pretender) was overlooked and, in 1714, the Elector of Hanover, George, became king.

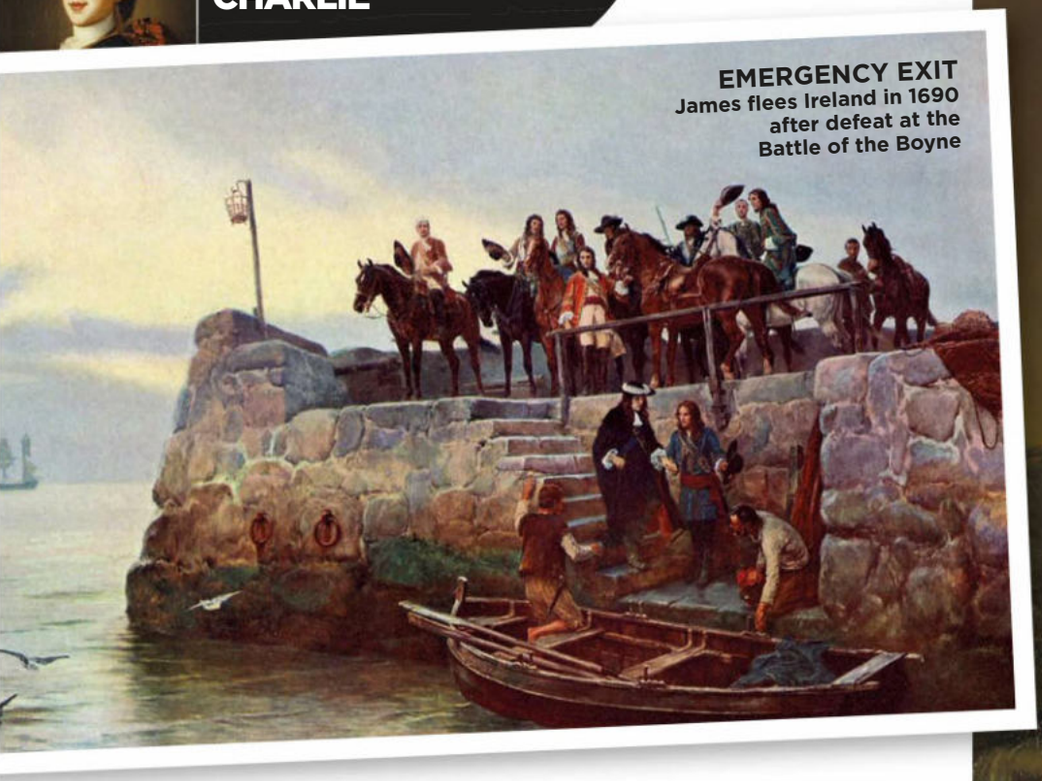
Not all Jacobites were Roman Catholics – support derived from a belief in the divine right of kings, hope for greater religious toleration or a desire to break the new Union between England and Scotland, while others used the movement to settle scores. They launched several campaigns from strongholds in Scotland and Ireland, but with no success. The closest Jacobites got proved to be Bonnie Prince Charlie's rebellion.

ROYAL COLLECTION TRUST/© HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II 2017 X1, ALAMY X1, GETTY X2



BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE AND THE FORTY-FIVE

His rebellion may have been short-lived and ultimately unsuccessful, but the exiled Stuart prince remains a Scottish hero, reveals **Jonny Wilkes**



EMERGENCY EXIT
James flees Ireland in 1690 after defeat at the Battle of the Boyne



ONWARD MARCH
Easily taking Edinburgh, Charles takes occupancy of Holyroodhouse

Bonnie Prince Charlie convened a council of war on 5 December 1745 with no doubt in his mind of its purpose: to plan the next advance in his magnificent invasion of England. He had reason to be brimming with such confidence. His army marched across the border from Scotland less than a month earlier and, still undefeated, had already reached Derby – some 110 miles from London and from Charles's birthright, the throne of the United Kingdom.

So what he did not expect at the meeting in Exeter House was his military advisers' recommendation for a full retreat. The advisers – led by commander of the Jacobite forces Lord George Murray, no less – argued that with two Redcoat armies behind them and another in front, a single engagement risked crippling their ranks and cutting off an escape.

Charles couldn't hide his astonishment and dismay. True, promises of assistance by the French or English Jacobites had not materialised, but his warriors had high morale and were well positioned. As he saw the whole rebellion as a leap of faith from the beginning, he did not understand why they should stop now. Charles adjourned the council to rally and cajole men to his cause. This proved fruitless and, after a final, unsuccessful plea that evening – "You ruin, abandon and betray me if you do not march on" – he grudgingly acquiesced. This was treachery and cowardice. To advance meant possible glory, while withdrawal only led to defeat. The next morning, a furious Charles and his army turned back the way they came, back to Scotland and, as it turned out, their ultimate doom.

TO DIE OR CONQUER

Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie, or the 'Young Pretender') grew up believing he should be king one day. Since his grandfather James II of England and VII of Scotland had been deposed in 1688, a group known as the Jacobites aimed to restore the Stuart dynasty. While several risings in the late 17th and early 18th centuries failed to bring James and his son James Francis Edward, the 'Old Pretender', back from exile, Charles remained zealous in his claim. In 1744, he intended to lead an invasion organised by Britain's old enemy, the French, only for a vicious storm to scatter the fleet.

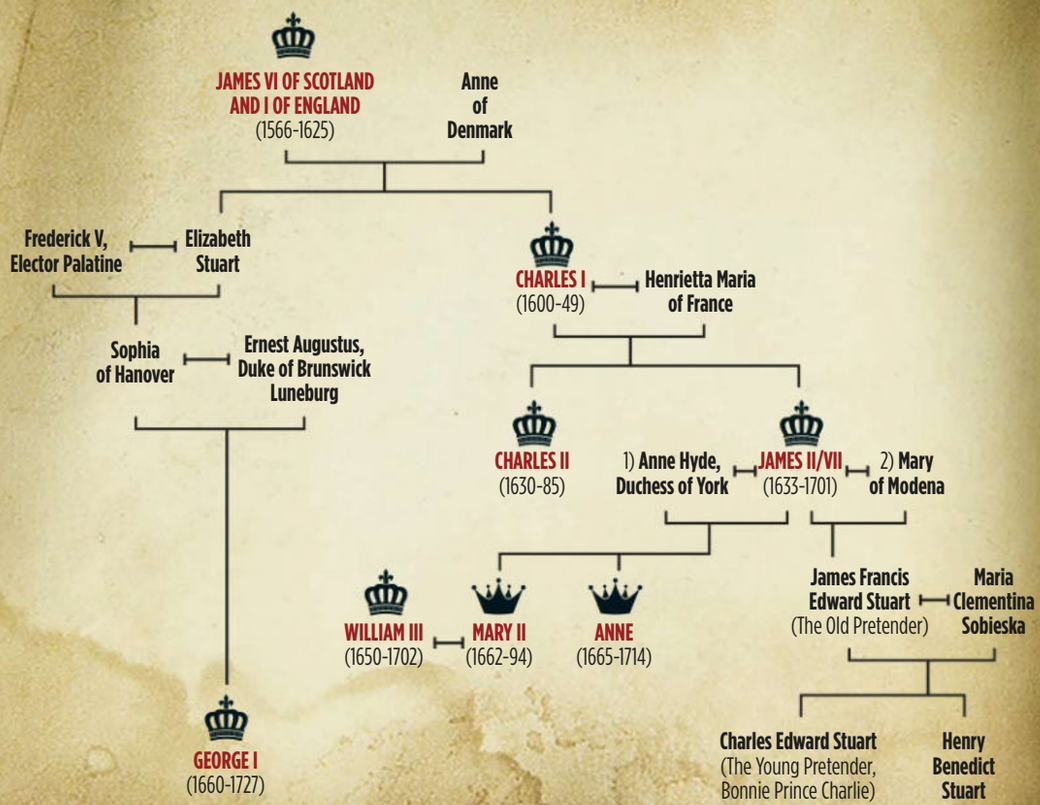
Frustrated that the invasion had to be cancelled – especially at a time when much of the British Army were fighting on the continent – Charles decided to launch his own. With only two ships and a small store of broadswords and muskets, the 24-year-old set sail for the west coast of Scotland, where he anticipated gathering enough Jacobite followers to build an army.

Things got off to a less-than-auspicious start. By the time he landed at Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides in late July 1745, the ship carrying the bulk of the men and supplies had turned back to France after being damaged during an attack from a Royal Navy warship. Charles set foot on Scotland, for the first time in his life, leading a rebellion

"Charles set foot on Scotland for the first time in his life, leading a rebellion of just a dozen men"

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FAMILY TREE
HANOVERIANS vs STUARTS



DID YOU KNOW?
Multilingual Charles could speak Italian, French, English and Latin – but not Gaelic.



DESTINY'S CHILD
Charles grew up believing the throne to be his birthright

THE BONNIE BACKSTORY

THE YOUNG PRETENDER'S EARLY YEARS

With the exception of the Forty-Five, Charles Edward Stuart lived in exile. Born 31 December 1720, he spent a privileged youth with his mother and father James, the Old Pretender, in Rome, courtesy of the Pope. On top of a thorough education, Charles would have been relentlessly told that the thrones of Scotland, England and Ireland were his birth right and the usurpation of his grandfather was an ungodly wrong for him to put right.

To that end, he received training in the art of war, first witnessing battle at the age of 13. The handsome and headstrong Young Pretender became a Jacobite figurehead – his portraits being used as a propaganda tool – who could inspire or cajole people to support him, which he used to great effect in Scotland initially.

CHARLIE'S LEGACY

SCOTLAND'S ROMANTIC HERO

To this day, Bonnie Prince Charlie enjoys national icon status in Scotland, despite spending just a year there in a rebellion that caused the deaths of many Highlanders and Lowlanders alike. What certainly improved his legacy (much like with William Wallace) would have been the brutality that fell on Scotland after 1746 – as attention turned from his failings to the oppressiveness of those from south of the border.

So while romanticised poems and folksongs, particularly of his cross-dressing escape, made him a tragic hero, his youthful and handsome image became a symbol for those seeking freedom from British tyranny, as well as Catholics and Jacobites, who continued to toast the 'king over the water'.

The Victorian era witnessed a resurgence in interest for Bonnie Prince Charlie, establishing him as a romantic legend. Even now, he makes headlines. A few years ago his most famous portrait (as seen on all kinds of tourist knickknacks) was revealed to be of his brother Henry, which led to the discovery of another portrait, painted by prominent Scottish artist Allan Ramsay.

COURTESY OF SCOTTISH NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY X1, GETTY X4



ON THE CHARGE
The Battle of Prestonpans saw an early Jacobite victory over the Redcoats



LOOKS FAMILIAR
The similarities between the brothers led to this portrait of Henry (*right*) to be mistaken for his older sibling Charles (*left*)



DID YOU KNOW?
Henry Benedict Stuart – Charles's brother – ended up receiving a £4,000 annual pension from the Hanoverian King George III.

of a just dozen men. Potentially just as disheartening, he discovered that he may not find the level of support he desperately needed when a Highlander told him to go home. An undeterred Charles replied: "I am come home, sir".

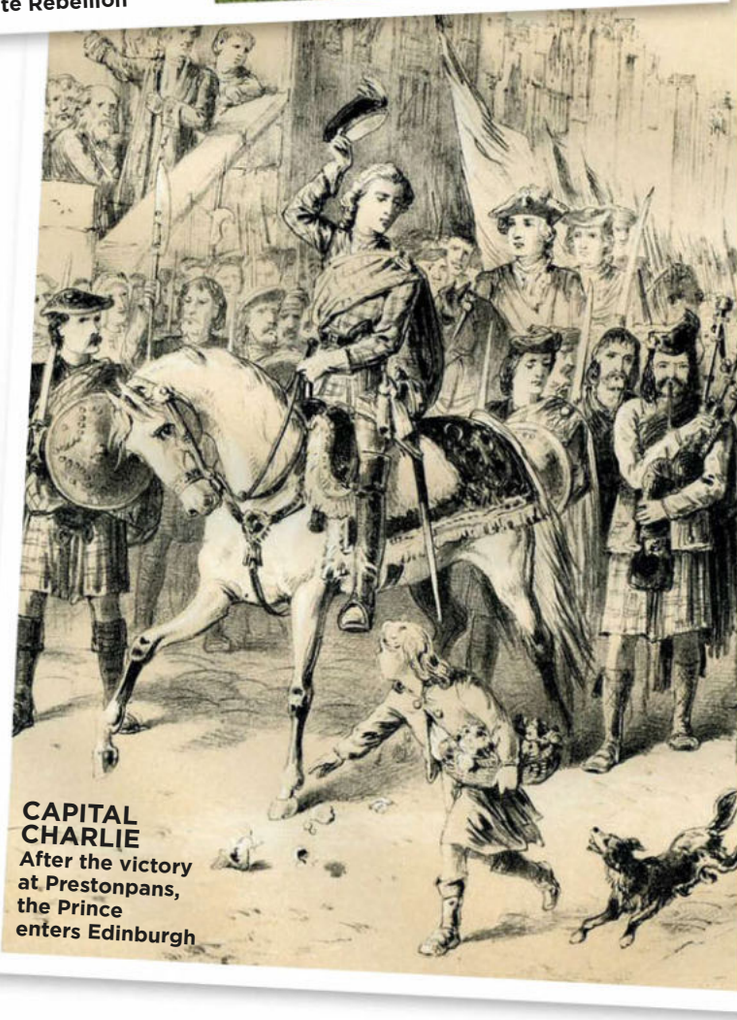
Charles – young, charismatic and headstrong – used his powers of persuasion to band together enough Highlanders to convince other clan chiefs to come and pledge loyalty. It required an anxious two-hour wait before anyone showed up at the gathering at Glenfinnan on 19 August, but the sound of bagpipes across the glen late in the day eventually let him know the arrival of the Camerons and MacDonalds. His rebellion – the Forty-Five – officially began with the raising of the Jacobite standard (a red flag with a white square in the middle).

Having assembled around 1,200 men, Charles made his way towards Edinburgh as more continued to join the march. In Perth, he wrote to his father: "It has pleased God to prosper me hitherto even beyond my expectation, I have got together about 1,300 (and am promised more) brave and determined men who are resolved to die or conquer





LOCH AND KEY
Glenfinnan, the pivotal birthplace of the Jacobite Rebellion



CAPITAL CHARLIE
After the victory at Prestonpans, the Prince enters Edinburgh

"Culloden, the last pitched battle on British soil, turned into a rout in less than an hour"

with me." Along the way, he met Lord George Murray and appointed the able military commander as lieutenant-general of the army, which actually numbered closer to 2,400 by the time they approached the Scottish capital.

RABBLE AND BRUTES

Edinburgh surrendered without bloodshed on 17 September. Although the castle never fell to the Jacobites, vast multitudes cheered as Charles, dressed in plaid tartan, paraded through the city streets on his way to take up residence at Holyroodhouse. There, he proclaimed his father as James VIII of Scotland.

Anyone questioning Charles's strength on the basis that he had yet to face substantial opposition were instantly silenced four days after he entered Edinburgh, when Murray routed the British army encamped nearby. Before the Battle of Prestonpans on 21 September, General Sir John Cope announced to his Redcoats: "Gentlemen, you are just now to engage with a parcel of rabble, a parcel of brutes. Being a small number of Scots Highlands, you can expect no booty from such a poor despicable pack." By circling around the enemy under cover of darkness and attacking from the rear, however, Murray won the day in under 15 minutes.

Key to the victory was the Highland Charge. Jacobites fired their muskets once (dropping them to the ground), hurtled towards the enemy, slashing with claymores and using their targe (shield) to protect them from bayonets. It was quick, frightening and devastatingly effective.

Charles became the most powerful man in Scotland – but he knew that to seize the crown, he must seize England. As many advisers wanted to stay put and consolidate their position, while waiting for the French assistance Charles promised, the decision to invade came down to a single vote. "You our Countrymen and Fellow-Subjects... will cheerfully join Issue with us, and share in the Glory of restoring our King, and in setting our Country free," declared an ever-optimistic Charles in a widely distributed letter on the eve of invasion.

On 8 November, Charles crossed the border with 5,000 men and 500 cavalry

RELICS OF A REBELLION

JACOBITE GEMS

These artefacts shed light on the life and times of Bonnie Prince Charlie



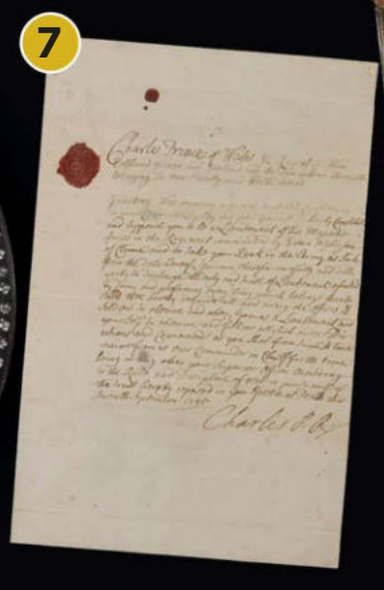












1: **An oval-shaped, gold-mounted snuffbox featuring a miniature of the older Charles**; 2: **A tartan frockcoat, supposedly worn by the prince**; 3: **His personal silver travelling canteen**; 4: **Charles's basket-hilted backsword**; 5: **The extrardinarily rare Spottiswoode 'Amen' drinking glass**; 6: **A targe – or shield – from his own collection**; 7: **A commission signed by Charles**

These items are part of the current *Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites* exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland



AGGRESSOR IN CHIEF
Prince William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland – aka The Butcher

DID YOU KNOW?
After the Duke of Cumberland captured the Jacobite garrison at Carlisle, he imprisoned them with no food or water. They licked the walls of the cells for moisture.

and headed west. Carlisle surrendered after an almost bloodless short siege, bolstering supplies of muskets, gunpowder and horses, then the Jacobites continued south, easily taking Preston and Manchester. Their speed kept them ahead of the larger force of Field Marshal George Wade.

Apart from the 300-strong Manchester Regiment, though, Charles struggled to gain mass support from English Jacobites. With no sign of the French either, Charles's chiefs began to lose optimism until it became a problem they could no longer ignore at the council of war in Derby.

If the decision had gone Charles's way, his army would have faced their sternest test, as not only Wade pursued them. Prince William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland (and son of George II) had been recalled from the continent to put down this rebellion. To face just one Redcoat force in battle, regardless of the result, may have severely hindered any other action, let alone an attack on London. Further progress required assistance from France or a rising of Jacobites, which Charles could not guarantee. Retreat may have allowed the Jacobites to regroup. Charles only saw it as a betrayal. From then on, he distanced himself from military minds in his army, with disastrous consequences.

RAPID RETREAT

As with the advance, the retreat wasted no time; the army had reached Glasgow by 26 December. The only presence Charles left in England was a token garrison of 400 men at Carlisle, which Cumberland overpowered almost immediately. Back in Scotland, it looked as though Murray's caution paid off when, on 17 January 1746, a re-provisioned force of 8,000 thumped General Henry Hawley's British army at the Battle of Falkirk Muir. They killed an estimated 350 soldiers and captured 300 more, losing just 50 of their own.

Yet if this victory could have reignited the rebellion, the Jacobites failed to take advantage. They continued their march north, halting for a futile and draining siege of Stirling Castle. Cumberland then took over command from Hawley, preparing for one last decisive battle.

Although Irish and Scottish troops in the employ of France finally arrived, Charles's ranks thinned as Highlanders abandoned the cause. Supplies similarly became an issue – especially after the Royal Navy captured a French ship carrying money intended for the Jacobites. As Charles's army of fewer than 5,000 men diminished in Inverness, Cumberland spent six weeks in Aberdeen training a force of nearly 9,000 men, including many Lowlanders. Ignoring counsel to adopt guerrilla tactics and avoid this well-equipped, well-rested army, Charles took personal command for the first time and marched out to confront Cumberland on a desolate moorland at Culloden.

On the day before battle, Murray persuaded Charles to attempt a night attack on the Redcoats' camp. Cumberland's soldiers had been given brandy to celebrate his 25th birthday, making them a soft target. The attack never happened, though. The trek

DISMANTLING THE CLANS

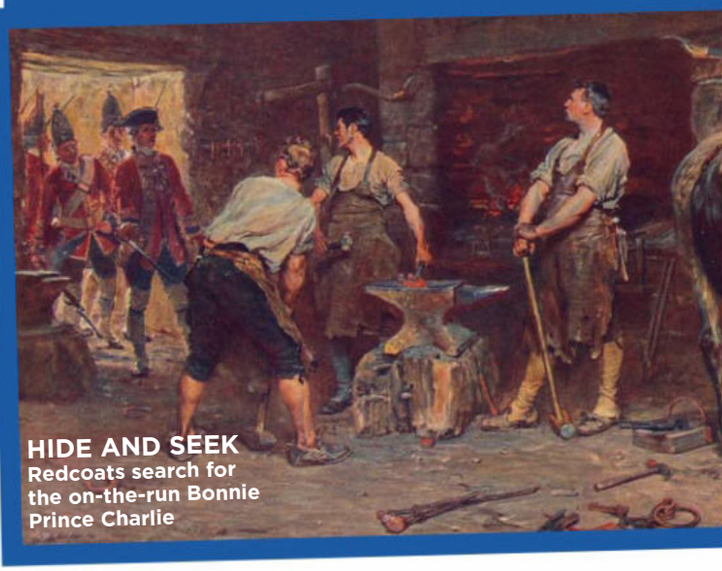
AFTER CULLODEN

With the battle won – leaving Bonnie Prince Charlie's rebellion in tatters – what remained for the Duke of Cumberland was the eradication of possible future uprisings. He wasted no time and showed no mercy.

His dragoons went on the rampage straight from the battlefield, indiscriminately cutting down the wounded or fleeing Jacobites and murdering innocent men, women and children they encountered on the road. Homes were burned, property and livestock plundered, and Jacobite supporters imprisoned. Those not executed (the majority without trial) faced transportation or the humiliation of being drafted into the ranks of the Redcoats. For the bloodshed of these atrocities (which some historians have regarded as ethnic cleansing) Cumberland earned the sobriquet 'The Butcher'.

Attempts to pacify the population intensified with attacks on Scottish culture, especially in the wilder Highlands, in order to integrate the land with the rest of the kingdom. Carrying weapons and the wearing of traditional dress, such as tartan plaid, were banned. With another law, the Heritable Jurisdictions (Scotland) Act of 1746, the government aimed to dismantle the clan system itself by abolishing the judicial rights of landowners. This significantly weakened the authority of the clan chiefs. With social and military structures broken down, the Jacobites could not organise another rebellion – yet that did not stop some from hoping Bonnie Prince Charlie would return one day.

In truth, the clan system had been in decline before 1746, but the emphatic victory at Culloden had given the British government the opportunity to speed up its destruction and boost military presence. The suppression of Scotland would also later lead to the 'Highland Clearances' of the 18th and 19th centuries, when people were forcibly evicted from the homes, by any means, to clear the land for sheep farming, leading to mass depopulation.



HIDE AND SEEK
Redcoats search for the on-the-run Bonnie Prince Charlie

DRAMBUIE COLLECTION/BY KIND PERMISSION OF WILLIAM GRANT AND SONS X1, COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUMS SCOTLAND X7, GETTY X1



UNEVEN CONTEST
The Battle of Culloden, where the Jacobite rebels were quickly put to the sword – or bayonet

TURNED TO STONE
A headstone marking a mass grave at Culloden

OVER THE SEA TO SKYE

CHARLIE'S FLIGHT

Bonnie Prince Charlie fled Culloden Moor on 16 April 1746, knowing it marked the end of his rebellion. He later wrote to his chiefs: "I can at present do little for you on this side of the water... the only thing that can now be done is to defend yourselves". However, it would take a dangerous (and now legendary) five months on the run across the Highlands to reach the safety of France.

Ceaselessly hunted and narrowly escaping the clutches of the militia, he relied on people to feed, clothe and hide him and his small band of supporters, sometimes in caves. No-one betrayed him for the gigantic £30,000 reward for his capture. By the end of June, he had taken refuge in the Outer Hebrides but, with soldiers everywhere, he needed to reach Skye. A young woman named Flora MacDonald sailed there, with Charles in a blue and white dress disguised as her Irish spinning maid, Betty Burke. The voyage has been immortalised by the folk ditty *The Skye Boat Song* and Flora, who spent a few months in the Tower of London, became a Jacobite heroine.

Charles eventually escaped aboard a French ship sent to rescue him and never returned to Scotland. A drunk, bitter man by the time of his death in 1788, his Forty-Five and fabled flight nonetheless ensured the legend of Bonnie Prince Charlie would live on forever.





DISAPPEARING ACT
Charles's conspirator Flora MacDonald (*left*), with whom he hides in a cave (*below*)

ALAMY X1, GETTY X3

DID YOU KNOW?
Flora MacDonald, who helped Bonnie Prince Charlie escape to Skye, moved to North Carolina, where her husband fought in the American Revolutionary War – for the British.

"Charlie knew that to seize the crown, he must seize England"

took so long that the Jacobites had not reached the camp as dawn neared, forcing them to turn around and trudge all the way back. On the morning of 16 April, they were exhausted, hungry and thoroughly demoralised.

SECRET WEAPON

Rain and sleet hammered down into the remaining Jacobite faces as they stood on an open battlefield that suited the enemy's artillery far better than their Highland Charge. At around 1pm, three-pounder guns began battering their lines. Yet Charles, waiting for Cumberland to make the first move, kept his men standing still for perhaps as long as 20 minutes before ordering the charge.

Even when the attack came, it proved ineffective. The Highlanders in the centre had to veer right around a patch of marshy ground, causing them to squeeze against their own flank and break into one small section of Cumberland's front line. The left flank became bogged down, slowing their advance to a mere crawl.

The Redcoats had been instructed in a tactic to cope with claymore-wielding Highlanders. Rather than thrust bayonets at the man directly in front, they instead aimed for the exposed chest of the man to the right and trusted their comrade to protect them. At the very least, this was a psychological boost. In their minds, they had been given the secret weapon to quell the feared Highlanders.

The Jacobites were forced back by relentless musket fire and ferocious hand-to-hand fighting. Then, when Cumberland's dragoons broke through walls on the right flank, Charles's army became broken and routed. Culloden, the last pitched battle on British soil, turned into a rout in less than an hour, claiming between 1,500–2,000 Jacobite lives and sparking a brutal period of suppression for the people of Scotland.

By then, Bonnie Prince Charlie had already fled the battlefield, fully aware that the Forty-Five was over and left asking what could have been if he had not turned back at Derby.

GET HOOKED

VISIT
The exhibition – *Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites* – runs at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh until 12 November 2017. *www.nms.ac.uk*

READ
Jacobites: A New History of the '45 Rebellion by Jacqueline Riding (Bloomsbury, 2016)

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HIGH SPECIFICATION: Intended as a collectors' item, this Graceland Coin is fully layered with pure 24-carat gold. Struck to the highest standard, this important commemorative is not a legal tender

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Officially licensed, a 24 carat gold layered coin has been released to celebrate this powerfully moving song and the man who gave it to the world. Struck to a high specification, the edition will be available for a limited time. Applications are now open for the 'Heartbreak Hotel' Graceland Gold Coin, fully layered with pure 24-carat gold for just £9.99 (plus £9.99 s&h). This offer is likely to attract considerable interest and not just from Elvis fans, so please respond now.

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2. Apply now: Applications will be approved in strict order of receipt. If your application is successful you will be notified in writing within 7 days. Offer is limited to one per household.
3. Successful applicants will qualify to view the next coin in the Elvis Graceland™ Coin Collection, a series of gold layered Graceland Coins celebrating Elvis's Big Hits. These further coins, which may be yours for only £39.99 (plus £2.99 s&h) each will be sent at monthly intervals after your 'Heartbreak Hotel' Gold Coin. Each will be yours to view on approval for 14 days. You may cancel at any time. Your deluxe case will ship with a future issue.
4. To apply now, send the coupon below. For priority, call now on 0333 003 0019. Lines open Mon-Fri 9.00am-8.00pm and Sat 9.00am-5.30pm

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I do not need to send any money now. If my application is successful I will be notified in writing within 7 days.

I understand I can apply for only one coin, and that my application should be made within 7 days. I may return the coin within 14 days if I am not satisfied. I confirm I am aged 18 years or over. Applications are only open to UK households and is limited to one coin per household.

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EPIC SCALE
"*Dunkirk* is not a war film," says director Christopher Nolan. "It's a survival story"

ALAMY X1, ARCANGEL X1, GETTY X3



BRITAIN'S GREATEST ESCAPE

DUNKIRK

The subject of a major new film, the mass evacuation of troops from France was a pivotal moment in World War II. **Julian Humphrys** tells the dramatic story

Charles Lightoller was used to danger at sea. He was the most senior crew member to survive the sinking of the *Titanic* in 1912 and, during World War I, he had been in command of HMS *Garry* when it rammed and sunk a German U-boat off the Yorkshire coast. So, when he was informed by the Admiralty that his steam yacht, *Sundowner*, was needed to help evacuate the beleaguered British army from the beaches of Dunkirk and told to hand it over to a naval crew at Ramsgate, Lightoller had other ideas. *Sundowner* would take part in the rescue - but he would be at the helm. On 1 June, with a crew of his eldest son, Roger, and an 18-year-old sea-scout called Gerald Ashcroft, the 66-year old Lightoller sailed across the Channel, just one of the armada of small boats that would go down in history as the 'Little Ships'.

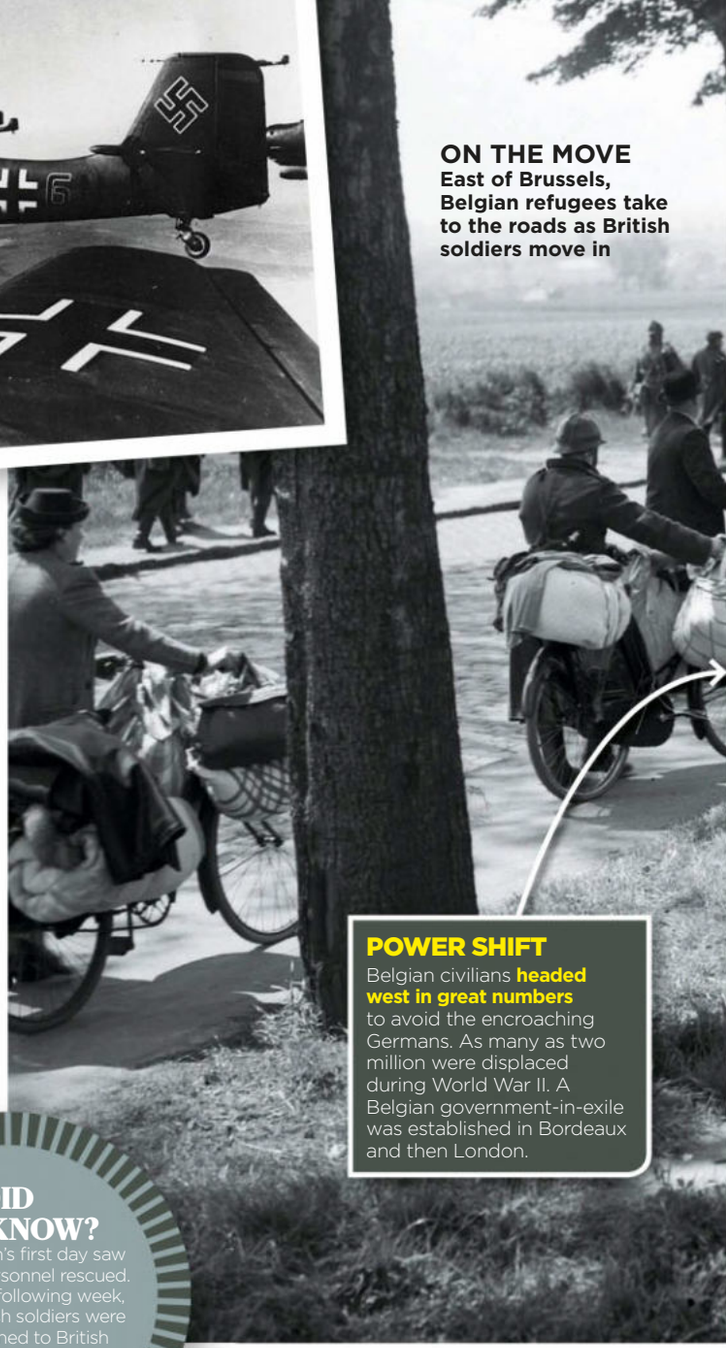
To those accustomed to the static warfare of World War I, the events of the previous two weeks had happened with an almost bewildering speed. When the Germans began their attack in the West on 10 May 1940, French and British forces were rushed into Belgium. The British Expeditionary Force (BEF) took up a position on the River Dyle, east of Brussels, and on 14 May they halted the first German assault. Although the British successfully repulsed further attacks, matters on their flanks weren't going so well. The Dutch Army had already surrendered and, when the French First Army retreated, the BEF was pulled back as well. As further withdrawals followed, the ordinary British soldiers, who thought they'd given a good account of themselves, became increasingly frustrated. One artilleryman glumly wrote in his diary that he and his comrades couldn't understand why they had to keep retreating and irritably observed "some twit is singing 'We'll hang out the washing on the Siegfried Line' but if he doesn't stop singing that particular song someone will be hanging him on a line".



DIVE BOMBING
Germany's notorious Stuka planes brought terror to ground forces

SITTING TARGETS

Roads were clogged by long columns of refugees while movement was further hampered by the Stuka dive-bombers of the omnipresent Luftwaffe, which swooped down, sirens wailing, on soldiers and civilians alike. One Guards officer later recalled that the Stukas "scream down with their awful sirens going, bombing, and firing tracer ammunition on the refugees who were flooding the roads. It was an appalling sight..."



ON THE MOVE
East of Brussels, Belgian refugees take to the roads as British soldiers move in

POWER SHIFT
Belgian civilians **headed west in great numbers** to avoid the encroaching Germans. As many as two million were displaced during World War II. A Belgian government-in-exile was established in Bordeaux and then London.

DID YOU KNOW?
The operation's first day saw just 8,000 personnel rescued. But over the following week, 338,226 British soldiers were safely returned to British shores. Around 140,000 French and Belgians were saved too.

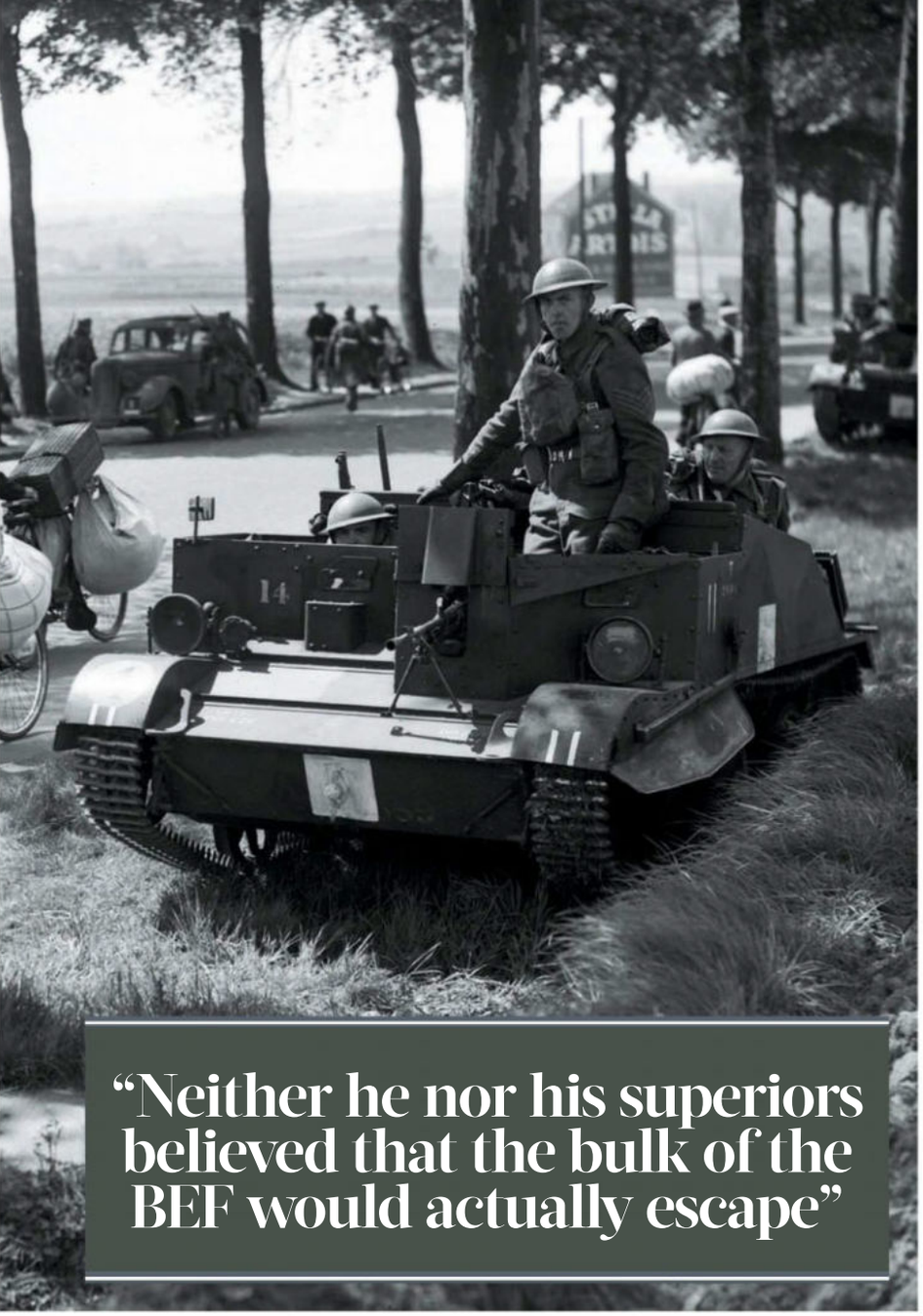
PREPARATION FOR BATTLE
British Expeditionary Force

In Autumn 1939, for the second time that century, the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) sailed to France to join a war against Germany. Led by Viscount Gort (*pictured*), a Victoria Cross winner who, as Chief of the General Staff, had been the professional head of the Army, they moved into north-east France ready to help their French allies combat the expected German attack on neutral Belgium. But years of underfunding following the end of World War I had left it ill-trained, undermanned and ill-equipped for the job. In May 1940, while the French boasted around 2.5 million men in the field, the BEF could contribute a mere 394,000, of which only two-thirds were available for combat. Some equipment, like the Bren machine gun and the 25-pounder field gun, was of a very high quality, but there was a serious shortage of both air support and the kind of tanks capable of taking on German armour on equal terms.





FIRST STEPS
British artillerymen disembark at Cherbourg in September 1939



> “Neither he nor his superiors believed that the bulk of the BEF would actually escape”

Meanwhile, the decisive action had taken place further south. On 13 May, after advancing through the thinly defended forests of the Ardennes, which the Allies had considered virtually impassable for tanks, the Germans crossed the River Meuse at Sedan. Spearheaded by the very tanks that the Allies thought would never get through, the Germans raced westwards. On 20 May, they reached the Channel coast at Abbeville, cutting the Allied armies in two. The following day, the Germans were badly shaken by a British counter-attack on the corridor of land they held to the south of the BEF, but the attack eventually petered out.

Lord Gort and the French commanders were well aware of the need to break through the German corridor and re-establish contact with Allied forces to the south, and a plan was hatched to do just that. The BEF would attack from the north and the French from the south, but it soon became clear that the latter, worn out by two weeks’ fighting against the bulk of the German army, were in no position to mount an attack of any kind. To make matters worse, on 25 May the Belgian High Command warned the French and the British that their troops, who were guarding the left flank of the BEF, were on the point of collapse.

By now it was clear to Gort that the entire BEF was seriously at risk of being surrounded and destroyed. He cancelled the British contribution to the planned offensive and, on 26 May, he was authorised to fall back on Dunkirk ready for an evacuation by sea. Neither he nor his superiors back in England believed that the bulk of the BEF would actually escape but, in the circumstances, a retreat to Dunkirk seemed to offer the best chance of at least getting part of it away. But would Dunkirk still be in Allied hands when his troops got there?

GERMAN INDECISION

Counter-attack at Arras

When the Germans attacked Holland and Belgium in May 1940, the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and their French allies pushed forward into Belgium and initially took up a defensive position along the River Dyle. However, the key battle was taking place south of their position. On 13 May, having burst through the poorly secured forests of the Ardennes, German tanks crossed the River Meuse at Sedan and drove westwards behind the Allied forces that were fighting in Belgium. A week later, German tanks reached the Channel coast at Abbeville, effectively slicing the Allied armies in half. It was a stunning success and the Germans then mulled over what to do next. Attack north? Swing south? Or concentrate on reinforcing the flanks of the narrow corridor of land that their rapid advance had won for them?

In the meantime, the British took the initiative. On 21 May, they launched a counter-attack from Arras against the German corridor. In fact, the operation wasn’t a major strategic counterstroke – it was chiefly carried out by just three battalions, about 2,000 men, plus 74 tanks of which only 16 carried anything deadlier than a machine gun. Even so, it initially made good progress. The inexperienced soldiers of the SS Totenkopf (Death’s Head) Division panicked and the 7th Panzer Division reported it was being attacked by “hundreds of tanks”. Eventually the attack petered out, but it had undeniably given the Germans an almighty shock and may have led them to act more cautiously in the days that followed.





ACTS OF AGGRESSION RIGHT: **The Germans met little resistance in the Ardennes forests** BELOW: **Invading German troops build a makeshift bridge at Maastricht in the Netherlands**

ALAMY X2, GETTY X4

DUNKIRK IN NUMBERS

Of the 933 British ships that took part in the operation...



6 DESTROYERS

8 STEAMERS



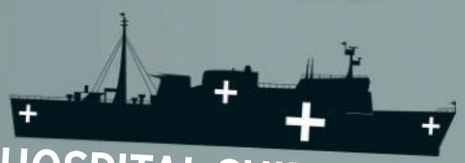
1 SLOOP



17 TRAWLERS



5 MINESWEEPERS

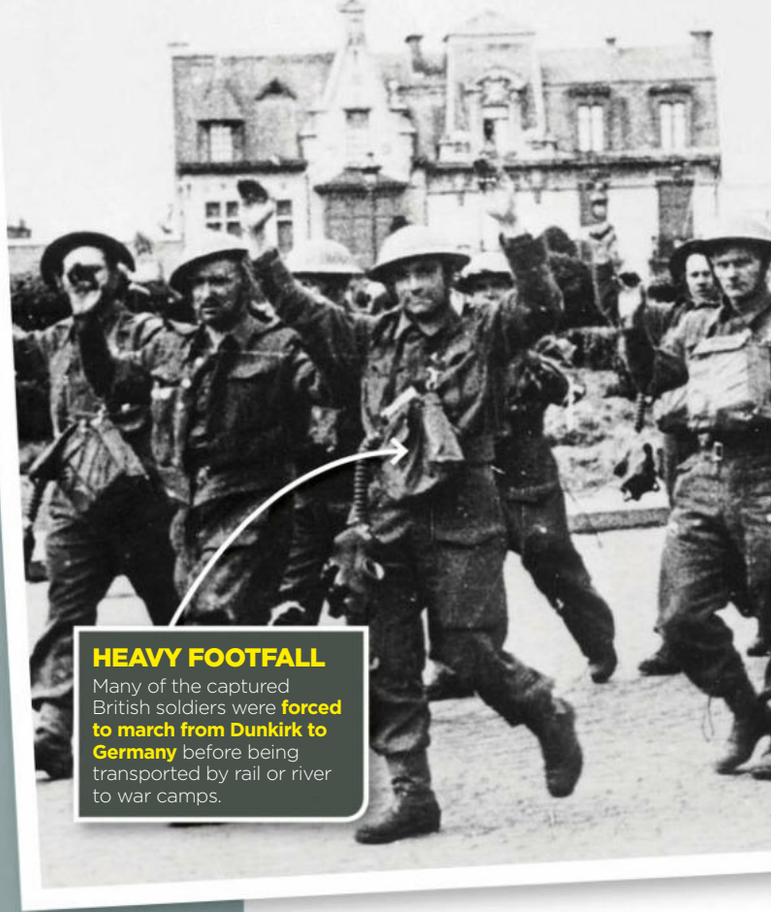


1 HOSPITAL SHIP



188 OTHER VESSELS

...were sunk and a similar number damaged



HEAVY FOOTFALL
Many of the captured British soldiers were **forced to march from Dunkirk to Germany** before being transported by rail or river to war camps.

After reaching the coast on 20 May, the Germans began to push northwards. First in their line of advance was Boulogne, which had just been reinforced by a brigade of Irish and Welsh Guards. A shambolic scene greeted the guardsmen as they disembarked in the pouring rain. According to the Irish Guards' official historian, "The quay was a scene of squalid confusion. It looked as if thousands of suitcases had been emptied on the ground by maniac customs officers, and trampling over this sodden mass of clothes, bedding and filthy refuse was a horde of panic-stricken refugees and stray soldiers waiting to rush the ships."

The guardsmen were forced to fix bayonets in order to force their way through to take up their positions. Helped by some French gunners, headquarters staff and a battalion of pioneers, they held off the Germans for two days until the order was given to evacuate. Thanks to Royal Navy destroyers, which fought their way into the harbour shooting up German tanks, artillery and machine guns, the majority of the guardsmen and perhaps 3,000 other soldiers and civilian refugees were also evacuated. Amongst them were 12 young showgirls who, according to one onlooker, boarded HMS *Keith* carrying their suitcases as if they were going on a cruise. Lord

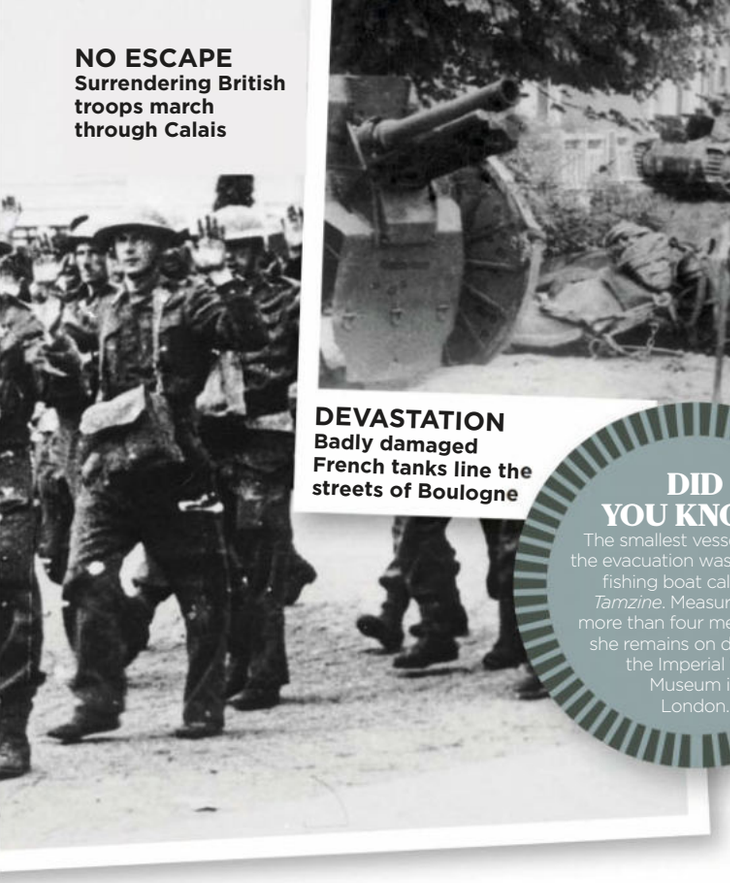
LOSSES IN THE FALL OF FRANCE

11,014 Killed
14,074 Wounded
41,338 Missing/POWs
2,472 Guns
63,879 Vehicles
20,548 Motorcycles
226 Ships and boats

477 Fighter planes
454 Other planes

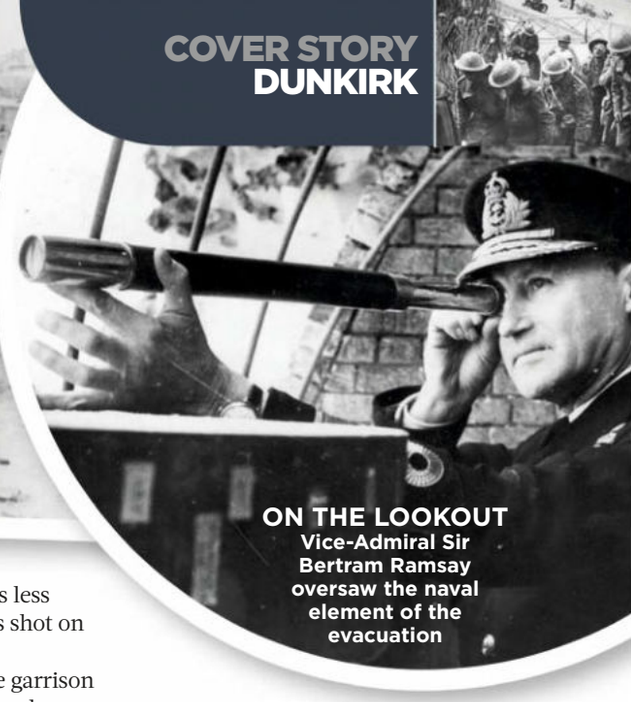


ALL HANDS ON DECK
Vessels of all sizes were commandeered for the cause



NO ESCAPE
Surrendering British troops march through Calais

DEVASTATION
Badly damaged French tanks line the streets of Boulogne



ON THE LOOKOUT
Vice-Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay oversaw the naval element of the evacuation

DID YOU KNOW?
The smallest vessel used in the evacuation was a wooden fishing boat called the *Tamzine*. Measuring little more than four metres long, she remains on display at the Imperial War Museum in London.

> "A shambolic scene greeted the Guards as they disembarked in the pouring rain"

Gort's horse was less fortunate. It was shot on the quayside.

Meanwhile, the garrison of Calais was also under heavy attack. The British units that had been sent to reinforce the port fought doggedly in the streets and from behind the city ramparts but, as losses mounted and ammunition ran short, they were gradually broken into small pockets of resistance. Evacuation had been ruled out for the sake of Allied solidarity, so the defenders battled on until they were overwhelmed. More than 16,000 French and 3,500 British troops were taken prisoner, including Lieutenant Airey Neave, who would later become the first British officer to escape from Colditz (and, later still, be assassinated by a car bomb in Westminster in 1979). Churchill later wrote that, without the delay imposed on the Germans by the stubborn Allied defence of Boulogne and Calais, Dunkirk would have fallen.

Others are less convinced and point instead to a controversial decision on the part of the Germans. On 24 May, tanks of the 1st Panzer Division had crossed the Aa Canal and were just 15 miles from Dunkirk when they and other German armoured units were ordered to halt. The reasons for this order included the German belief that the low-lying marshy ground was unsuitable for tanks; that the Panzer Divisions, which had suffered heavy losses in the previous fortnight's fighting, needed to be preserved for the coming battle in the south; and the over-optimistic claim by the Luftwaffe that they would be able to complete the destruction of the Allies on their own. The halt order was rescinded on 26 May, but the delay had given the Allies precious respite. By the time the Germans resumed their attacks on 27 May, the evacuation from Dunkirk had begun.

PLAN OF ACTION

Once they'd decided to carry out an evacuation, the Allied planners needed to work quickly. They had to identify a defensible perimeter around Dunkirk and organise an embarkation programme that allowed units to be withdrawn for evacuation without weakening the line so much that the Germans could break through.

Vice-Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay was appointed to plan and direct the naval aspect of the withdrawal which he code-named Operation Dynamo. Together with a flotilla of destroyers, Ramsay assembled a fleet of impressed merchant vessels (mainly ferries and packet steamers), as well as six coasters, 16 motorised barges, five Belgian tugboats and 40 schuyt (flat-bottomed Dutch boats which the British dubbed 'skoots'). Ramsay intended these vessels to evacuate men from the port at Dunkirk, but because the BEF also envisaged

Continues on p42

WAR CRIME AND PUNISHMENT
Massacre at Le Paradis

During the retreat to Dunkirk, some members of the Royal Norfolk Regiment made a stand near the village of Le Paradis. When their ammunition ran out, 99 of them surrendered to a unit of the SS Totenkopf Division under the command of Hauptsturmführer Fritz Knöchlein. The SS, many of whom were former concentration camp guards, lined up the men in front of a nearby barn and machine-gunned them, before shooting or bayonetting any survivors. Only two privates, Albert Pooley and William O'Callaghan, escaped the massacre. When the German superiors demanded an explanation, Theodore Eicke, the Totenkopf's commander, claimed that the Norfolks had been tried and executed for using dum-dum bullets (expanding bullets). This didn't satisfy the investigating German officer, but his questions were left unanswered with the Totenkopf Division being moved elsewhere and the investigation shelved. After the war, though, Knöchlein was tracked down, convicted by a war crimes court for his part in the massacre, and executed in 1949.





GUILTY PARTY
TOP: **Fritz Knöchlein was executed for his part in the massacre**
LEFT: **The collar patch as worn by members of the SS Totenkopf Division**

ALAMY X2, GETTY X3, REX/SHUTTERSTOCK X1

DUNKIRK DELIVERANCE

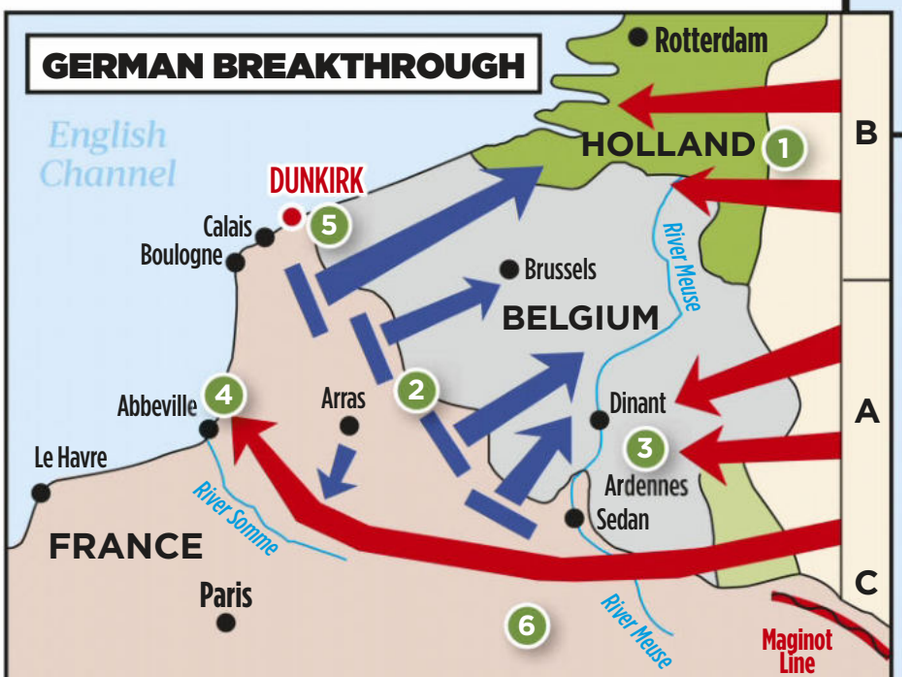
The 'Miracle of Dunkirk' saved the men of the BEF, but at a high price

When German forces invaded Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg in May 1940, British and French troops were ordered forward to face them. But after the Germans unexpectedly advanced through the Ardennes and pushed north to the Channel coast, these troops found themselves cut off. As German pressure forced the British and French into a steadily-contracting bridgehead, the only hope was to evacuate as many men as possible by sea. In the end, 338,000 men were evacuated, far more than the planners had dared hope for. The British were forced to leave behind all their tanks, vehicles and equipment, but the men who had been rescued could at least form the core of a new army.

DID YOU KNOW?

During the retreat to Dunkirk, John 'Mad Jack' Churchill of the Manchester Regiment shot a German soldier with a bow and arrow.





HOW FRANCE FELL

1 10 May
The German Army Group B, under Field Marshal von Bock, invades Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg.

2 10 May
French and British forces move into Belgium. The BEF takes up a position on the River Dyle.

3 13 May
After passing through the barely defended forests of the Ardennes, the German Army Group A, under Field Marshal von Runstedt, breaks through at Sedan and drives west towards the coast.

4 20 May
German tanks reach the Channel at Abbeville, which effectively splits the Allied forces in two and isolates most of the BEF.

5 27 May – 4 June
338,000 troops, a third of them French, are evacuated from Dunkirk before the port falls to the Germans.

6 5 June
The Germans begin the second phase of their assault in the west and attack south into France.



CAPITAL GAIN
German troops arrive on the Champs-Élysées on 14 June 1940

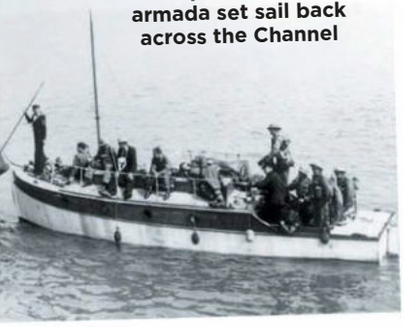
ANGUISH AMONG ALLIES
French connection

The French High Command weren't initially told of the plan to evacuate, and accused the British of deliberately prioritising the rescue of their own men and leaving the French until last. The final British troops were evacuated from Dunkirk on 2 June. More than 50,000 French troops were evacuated in the last two days before Dunkirk fell, but 40,000 more were left behind and taken prisoner. Among them were the 25,000 men of the rearguard whose gallant resistance had helped so many of the BEF to escape. The French troops that had been evacuated to England were quickly returned to France as, on 5 June, the Germans began the second phase of their conquest of the country, driving south over the rivers Somme and Aisne, and enveloping the Maginot Line. Paris fell on 14 June and a week later the defeated French signed an armistice.

GETTY X1, TOPFOTO X1



IN TANDEM
Two of the 'little ships' from the armada set sail back across the Channel



NETHERLANDS
Ostend
6
DUNKIRK
Gravelines
4
Allied forces
ARMY GROUP B
Brussels
Lille
5
BELGIUM
ARMY GROUP A
FRANCE
1
Arras

HOW THE DUNKIRK RESCUE HAPPENED

1 21 May
The British Expeditionary Forces causes alarm among the German High Command by mounting a spoiling counter-attack at Arras.

2 22-25 May
Germans attack a reinforced Boulogne. Most British troops are evacuated by sea, but 5,000 soldiers, mainly French, are taken prisoner.

3 23-26 May
Germans besiege and capture Calais. 16,500 French and 3,500 British are taken prisoner. The town's capture enables German guns to command a large section of the Channel and obliges ships to take a circuitous route to Dunkirk.

4 24 May
German tanks are 15 miles from Dunkirk when the order to halt is given. By the time they move forward again, on 27 May, the evacuation from Dunkirk has begun.

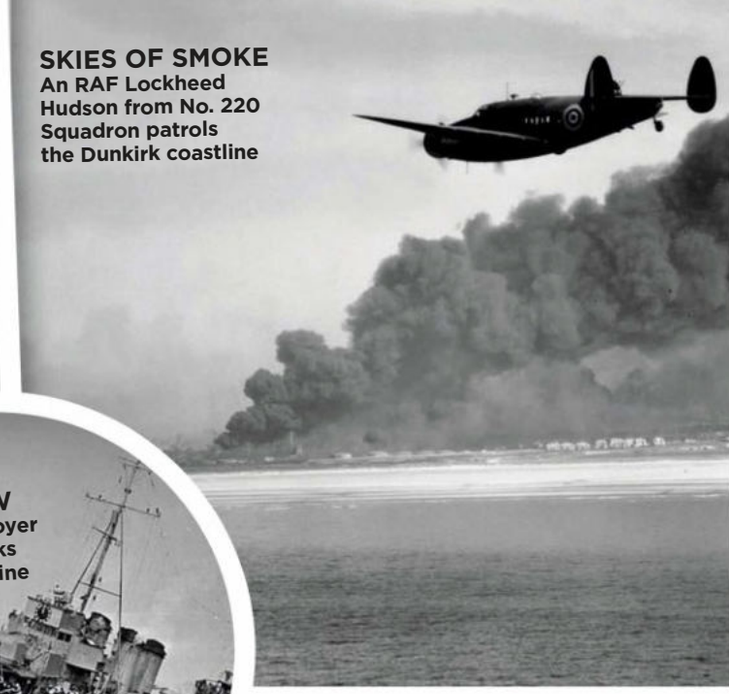
5 31 May
As the German advance continues, the French 1st Army is surrounded in the Lille area and forced to surrender. 35,000 men are taken prisoner.

6 4 June
Dunkirk finally falls to the Germans.

German Attack
Allied frontline, 25 May
Allied frontline, 28 May
Allied frontline, 31 May
Allied evacuation



CRUCIAL LIFELINE
A handful of the 1,200 people on board the *Bourrasque* are pulled to safety



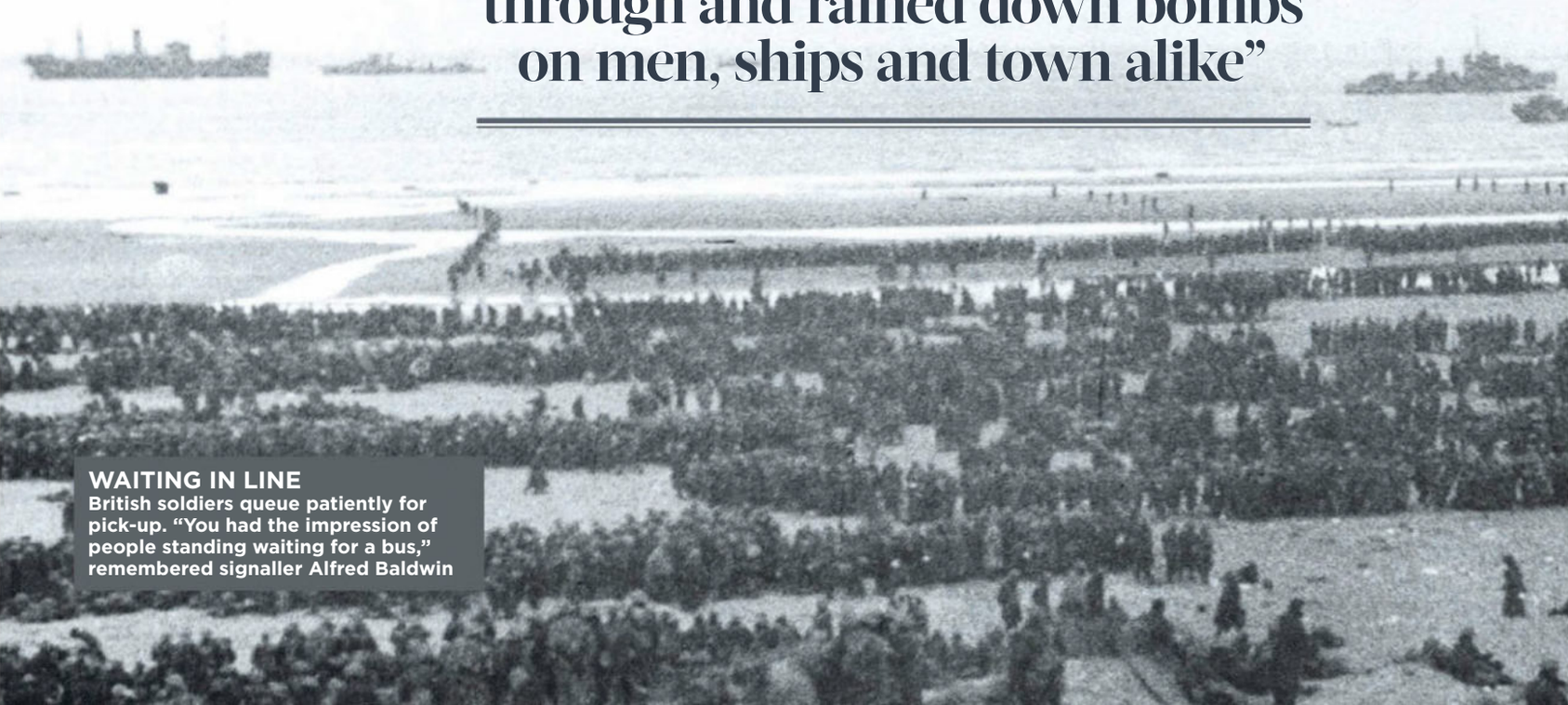
SKIES OF SMOKE
An RAF Lockheed Hudson from No. 220 Squadron patrols the Dunkirk coastline

FATAL BLOW
The French destroyer *Bourrasque* sinks after hitting a mine



HOMEWARD BOUND
Exhausted British troops smile for the camera

> "Large numbers of aircraft got through and rained down bombs on men, ships and town alike"



WAITING IN LINE
British soldiers queue patiently for pick-up. "You had the impression of people standing waiting for a bus," remembered signaller Alfred Baldwin



evacuating forces from the nearby beaches, he realised that a huge number of smaller vessels would be needed to ferry men out to the larger ships that would be waiting for them offshore. The Admiralty had already assembled a pool of about 80 small craft (and 43 pleasure boats were taken from their moorings around Westminster Pier), but it rapidly became clear that this wouldn't be enough. Officers were therefore sent out to find as many seaworthy small vessels as they could. Fishing boats, lifeboats and pleasure craft were all requisitioned and soon a vast armada of small ships was assembling off Ramsgate. Some were given volunteer crews; others, like *Sundowner*, had their owners at the helm. All were ready to begin the hazardous trip across the Channel.

ISSUING ORDERS

The Admiralty gave the order to start Operation Dynamo at 6.57pm on Sunday 26 May, but Ramsay had already sent out ships that afternoon. One of the first to arrive was *Mona's Queen*, which berthed in Dunkirk under heavy air attack and rescued more than 1,400 men. As she sailed home, she was shelled by German shore batteries and, once again, machine-gunned from the air. It was an experience that would become all too familiar over the following week, when more than 200 vessels of all kinds would be lost during the evacuation, including *Mona's Queen*, which struck a mine on a subsequent journey. The hard-pressed pilots of the RAF did their best to intercept the Luftwaffe, but large numbers of aircraft got through and rained down bombs on men, ships and town alike.

Meanwhile, the BEF and the French were carrying out a fighting retreat back to Dunkirk. A large number of delaying actions were fought to cover the withdrawal. The defenders of the hilltop town of Cassel put up a stiff resistance, destroying 40 tanks before the order to retire reached them on 29 May. By then, there were Germans all around and few made it back to Dunkirk. A dozen men from the Gloucestershire Regiment never got the order at all and held out in a nearby blockhouse for two days, fighting on even though the Germans had climbed onto its roof and set alight to petrol that they'd poured down a hole into its interior.

On 28 May, the defenders of Wormhout nearly claimed a prestigious scalp when a German Mercedes staff car, driving well ahead of its infantry, was shot up at a Royal Warwickshire Regiment road block. The British didn't know it, but the chief passenger in the car was Hitler's former bodyguard, Josef 'Sepp' Dietrich, who now commanded the Leibstandarte, the premier unit in the Waffen SS. Although the driver was killed, Dietrich and his aide, Max Wunsche, managed to escape from the blazing car. They took shelter in a nearby ditch where they remained, pinned down, for four hours while their regiment vainly tried to rescue them. In the end, a company of German tanks was brought forward, the British were either overrun or pushed back, and Dietrich and Wunsche finally rescued. That evening, 80 British and French prisoners were massacred by members of the Leibstandarte in and around a nearby barn.

The popular image of Dunkirk is of long queues of soldiers waiting on the



EXIT STRATEGY

The ones that didn't get away...

When Operation Dynamo came to an end, nearly 140,000 British troops still remained in France. As the Germans pushed inexorably southwards, some were able to escape via Le Havre and Cherbourg, but the 51st Highland Division found itself cut off from the main Allied force. The rapid German advance had blocked the route to Le Havre, so the division made for the little port of St Valéry-en-Caux where they hoped they could be evacuated by sea. Royal Navy ships were waiting for them offshore, but German fire into the harbour and a thick fog made an evacuation impossible. The division was forced to surrender and nearly 10,000 men marched into captivity. Over 40,000 British soldiers were taken prisoner during the campaign as a whole. Families back home faced an anxious wait to discover their fate as they were initially posted as 'missing', and it was often months before the relatives learned from the Red Cross that they were alive. Other British troops were evacuated from ports in southern France. Not all would reach home, though. On 17 June, the troopship *Lancastria* was attacked by the Luftwaffe in the Loire estuary and sank with the loss of 3,500 lives. It was the greatest single maritime disaster in British history.





NO SAFE HAVEN
THIS PIC: **The number of British prisoners captured at Dunkirk reached almost five figures** TOP: **The bombing of the *Lancastria* brought about huge loss of life**

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM X1, GETTY X4, TOPFOTO X2



> “Drunken stragglers roamed the ruined streets, while others cowered with fear”

ANXIOUS TIMES
ABOVE: **An emergency pontoon is fashioned from military vehicles driven into the sea**
THIS PIC: **Members of the Royal Ulster Rifles await their rescue by incoming boats**





TERRA FIRMA
Having braved the crossing, evacuees arrive on home soil





THE RETURNED
Bedraggled but alive, homecoming soldiers are given a hero's welcome

DID YOU KNOW?
The last man home was 20-year-old Bill Lacey of the 2nd Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment. Having given up his space on a rescue boat to an injured comrade, he was stranded. He lived rough behind enemy lines for four months before stealing a boat and sailing home.

beach or in the water for a boat to take them away. In fact, only a third of the men rescued from Dunkirk were actually evacuated in this way. The majority, more than 200,000 men, left from the Dunkirk Mole – a stone and wooden jetty at the mouth of the port. Because it stood in deep water, bigger vessels could moor alongside it, enabling large numbers of men to be quickly embarked. Needless to say, the Mole, and the ships around it, soon attracted the attentions of the Luftwaffe. On 29 May, wave upon wave of German dive bombers swooped down on the vessels below them. No fewer than 25 ships were lost on that day alone.

One of the first civilian small boats to reach Dunkirk was a motor boat called the *Shamrock*. Its owner, Allan Barrell, recalled seeing what he thought were thousands of sticks on the beaches, only to realise they were actually men. Cautiously steering the *Shamrock* through the wreckage in the water, Barrell made several trips to ferry men out to the waiting destroyers. Eventually, the *Shamrock*'s propeller became fouled – probably on a dead body – and Barrell was forced to abandon it and join another vessel. Charles Lightoller managed to cram 130 men on board the *Sundowner* and took them all the way home. Although they had to dodge machine gun fire from German planes, their biggest concern was that they might be swamped by the wash of larger ships that sailed past them.

The behaviour of the troops at Dunkirk varied enormously. It was a testing experience to huddle on the beaches as bombs exploded all around, and for some it proved too much. Drunken stragglers roamed the ruined streets of Dunkirk, while others cowered with fear among the sand dunes. Yet many others, especially those who arrived in formed units, kept their discipline. Regimental pride clearly played its part. The Commanding Officer of one Territorial battalion reminded his men of their regiment's distinguished history, and told them to "set an example to that rabble on the beach". The unit marched off in good order. The final days saw the BEF indulge in an orgy of destruction as they desperately tried to prevent the Germans from using their equipment. Radios were destroyed, tyres were slashed and the radiators and petrol tanks of vehicles were punctured. Some vehicles were simply driven into rivers or canals.

By the afternoon of 4 June, more than 338,000 men had been rescued from Dunkirk. A measure of its success is the fact that 224,000 men of the BEF were saved – five times the number that the planners had originally thought might be. Although it had suffered 68,000 casualties and lost nearly all its equipment, the BEF was home at last.

Many saw the snatching of so many men from the jaws of disaster as nothing short of a miracle, but Winston Churchill sounded a note of caution. "Wars," he said, "are not won by evacuations..."

DEFENDING DUNKIRK
Siege city

On 4 June 1940, Dunkirk finally fell to the Germans, in whose hands it remained for nearly five years. When the Allies broke out from the Normandy beach-head in the summer of 1944, Hitler ordered that, to prevent the Allies from using them, certain ports should be turned into fortresses and should hold out as long as possible. Dunkirk was one. When units of the 2nd Canadian Division surrounded the heavily fortified city in mid-September, the 15,000 men of the German garrison put up a stiff resistance, leading Field Marshal Montgomery, the Allied commander, to conclude that the price for capturing Dunkirk wasn't worth paying. He decided not to order an all-out attack, but to blockade the Germans within the city instead. The 1st Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade was given the job. The subsequent siege lasted until the very end of the war. Although a temporary ceasefire was agreed on 4 October to allow the evacuation of 18,000 French civilians and wounded soldiers, the Germans mounted an energetic defence until the very end. They eventually surrendered the port on 9 May 1945.



LEAVING HOME
Dunkirk's citizens evacuate their city

GET HOOKED

WATCH
Christopher Nolan's new film *Dunkirk* goes on general release on 21 July. It stars Mark Rylance, Tom Hardy, Kenneth Branagh, Cillian Murphy and Harry Styles.

BOOK
Dunkirk: Fight To The Last Man by Hugh Sebag-Montefiore (Viking, 2006).

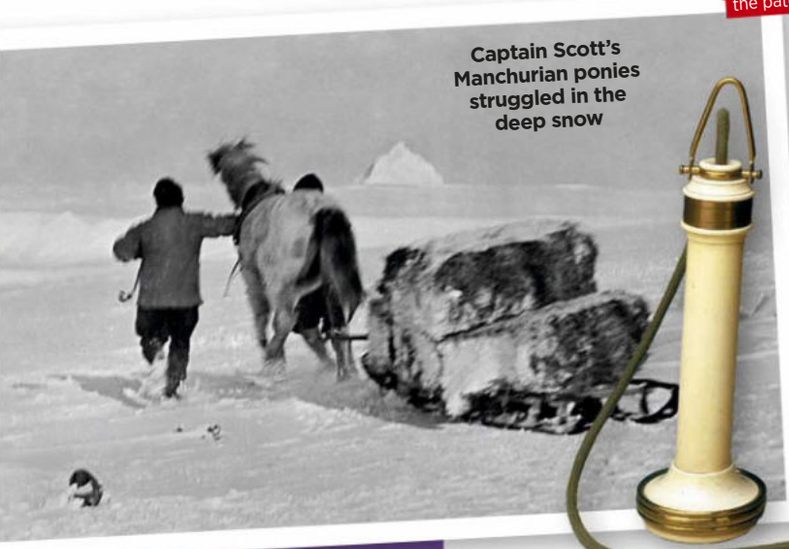
GETTY X5

Biggest mistakes

A simple error of judgement can cost money, time and reputations – and sometimes even lives...



It wasn't until several years after Columbus's discovery that one scholar first speculated that it was an entirely new continent



Captain Scott's Manchurian ponies struggled in the deep snow



Two years later, the Western Union realised their mistake, but the patent was no longer for sale

WRONG CALL

THE TELEPHONE HAS NO FUTURE

What would the investors on *Dragon's Den* have made of the newfangled invention, the telephone, which was being touted around by inventor Alexander Graham Bell in 1876? The Western Union – at the time a world-leading communications company with an extensive telegraph network – to whom Bell offered the patent, decided they were out of the deal, stating in an internal memo that: "This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication."

The telephone turned out to be the invention of the century

HORSES FOR COURSES

SCOTT REJECTS DOGS AND CAUSES ANTARCTIC ANNIHILATION

Explorer Robert Falcon Scott was determined to be first to the South Pole. He made it on 17 January 1912 – but 33 days after Roald Amundsen – and none of his team made it back alive. Scott's most devastating mistake was to pick ponies over dogs, believing they would be best for transporting supplies and as a fresh source of meat. Unfortunately, many of the ponies died of exhaustion or sank in the deep snow. Some drifted off on an ice flow where they were circled by killer whales, spooking them until they toppled into the water. Amundsen and his sledge dogs won the race.

MESSAGE MISUNDERSTOOD

SUICIDAL CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE

On 25 October 1854, in the midst of the Crimean War, the British commander-in-chief ordered his light cavalry commander Lord Cardigan to attack Russian troops he believed were raiding a fort. From his position, Cardigan couldn't see the fort, but he could see Russian artillery in the valley ahead. What he didn't realise was that the area was surrounded on three sides by the enemy. The British cavalry galloped unwittingly into a valley of death.

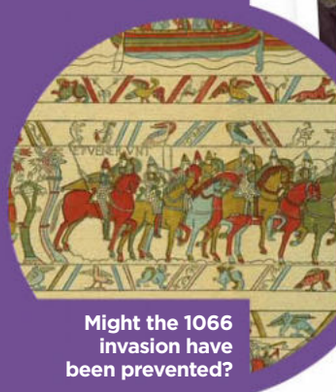


Cardigan's mistake led to one of the worst massacres in military history

TROUBLE AHEAD

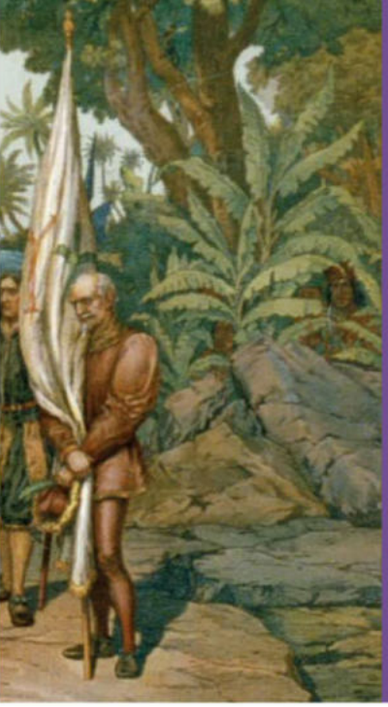
EARLY WARNING OF 1066 NORMAN INVASION IGNORED

In the late summer of 1066, English ships patrolling the English Channel came across an unknown fleet. You'd think they would have been suspicious of a crew of strange sailors, but the weather was bad and the English, who were probably eager to get back home, simply noted that the sea-goers had very short, cropped hair and assumed they must be priests. They weren't. They were William the Conqueror's Normans, waiting for the go-ahead to launch their invasion.



Might the 1066 invasion have been prevented?

ALAMY X1, GETTY X8, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS X1



EXPLORER ERROR

COLUMBUS THOUGHT HE LANDED IN ASIA

Good old Christopher Columbus firmly stamped his place in history as the man who discovered America, but the legendary seafarer wasn't having any of it. He set sail across the Atlantic in the hope of navigating his way to China and India. When he finally reached land, he believed he had achieved his goal – something he stood by until his dying day. In fact, he'd actually docked in the Bahamas and never made it as far as mainland North America.

TIME LAPSE

BAY OF PIGS DOOMED BY TIME ZONE OVERSIGHT



Captured US mercenaries are led away by Cuban soldiers

As far as the CIA were concerned, they had dreamt up the perfect plan to topple irritating revolutionary Fidel Castro from power. They recruited 1,400 exiled Cubans with insider knowledge and a desire for revenge, trained them up, named them Brigade 2506, and sent them off to secure a full-scale invasion of Cuba. However, last-minute changes meant that their aircraft flew an hour ahead of schedule, leaving back-up jets waiting for their scheduled departure time on the aircraft carrier USS *Essex*. By the time the jets took off and reached the invasion site, they were too late. A report by the CIA states: "To this day, there has been no resolution as to what caused this discrepancy in timing." The invasion was crushed.

BYZANTINE BUNGLE

UNLOCKED GATE SEALS CONSTANTINOPLE'S FATE



Forgetfulness led to the Byzantine capital being overthrown by the Ottomans

The fall of Constantinople, the glittering capital of the Byzantine Empire, was a really big thing. It marked the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of Ottoman Islamic domination in south-eastern Europe. When the Ottomans began to attack the city in 1453, the inhabitants weren't fazed. After all, its complicated defences and high, thick walls were famous for keeping out troublemakers. However, all was lost thanks to human error. According to the historian Doukas, some careless Byzantine soldiers forgot to shut a small gate. A determined crowd of Ottomans swiftly gained entry and raised their banner atop the inner wall.

WHAT A SLIPUP

AGINCOURT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A WALKOVER

The 1415 Battle of Agincourt should have been in the bag for the French. The stats, in terms of numbers and kit, were completely in their favour. What saved the day for Henry V of England was mud. When the two sides met, the bloody conflict took place in quagmire conditions. Henry took a chance and advanced his men, taking the enemy by surprise. As the French knights piled in, they were dragged down by their flashy, weighty armour, and those that dodged arrows were drowned in a sea of mud and the bodies of their comrades. Game over.



Henry V's English army won the battle in spite of the odds

MISPLACED CASE

SPY LOSES HIS PAPERS

When Heinrich Albert, a diplomat at the German embassy in the US, alighted a train in July 1915, he left behind an important possession: his briefcase. This would have been unfortunate in any circumstance, but it was especially so for Heinrich, who was in fact a spy. Realising his mistake, he jumped back on the train, but the briefcase had already been nabbed by Frank Burke, a Secret Service agent who'd been hot on his tail. The documents were surreptitiously leaked to the press by the US government, resulting in several German 'diplomats' being given their marching orders and whipping up public support for the war.



BLUNDER DOWN UNDER

DUTCH DECIDE AUSTRALIA IS A USELESS DESERT

In 1770, Captain James Cook landed on the east coast of an unknown southern land, claiming it for the British. In fact, the Dutch had got there first. In 1606, the *Duyfken*, captained by Willem Janszoon, encountered a swampy land with unfriendly people and quickly left. Dutch sailors continued to sail along the coastline but didn't bother to visit what they considered to be a useless desert with no commercial benefit.

ABOVE: **It was in fact a Dutch ship that first sighted Australia**
LEFT: **A briefcase left on a train derailed one spy's career**

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Are there any serious slip-ups missing from our list? Let us know!

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

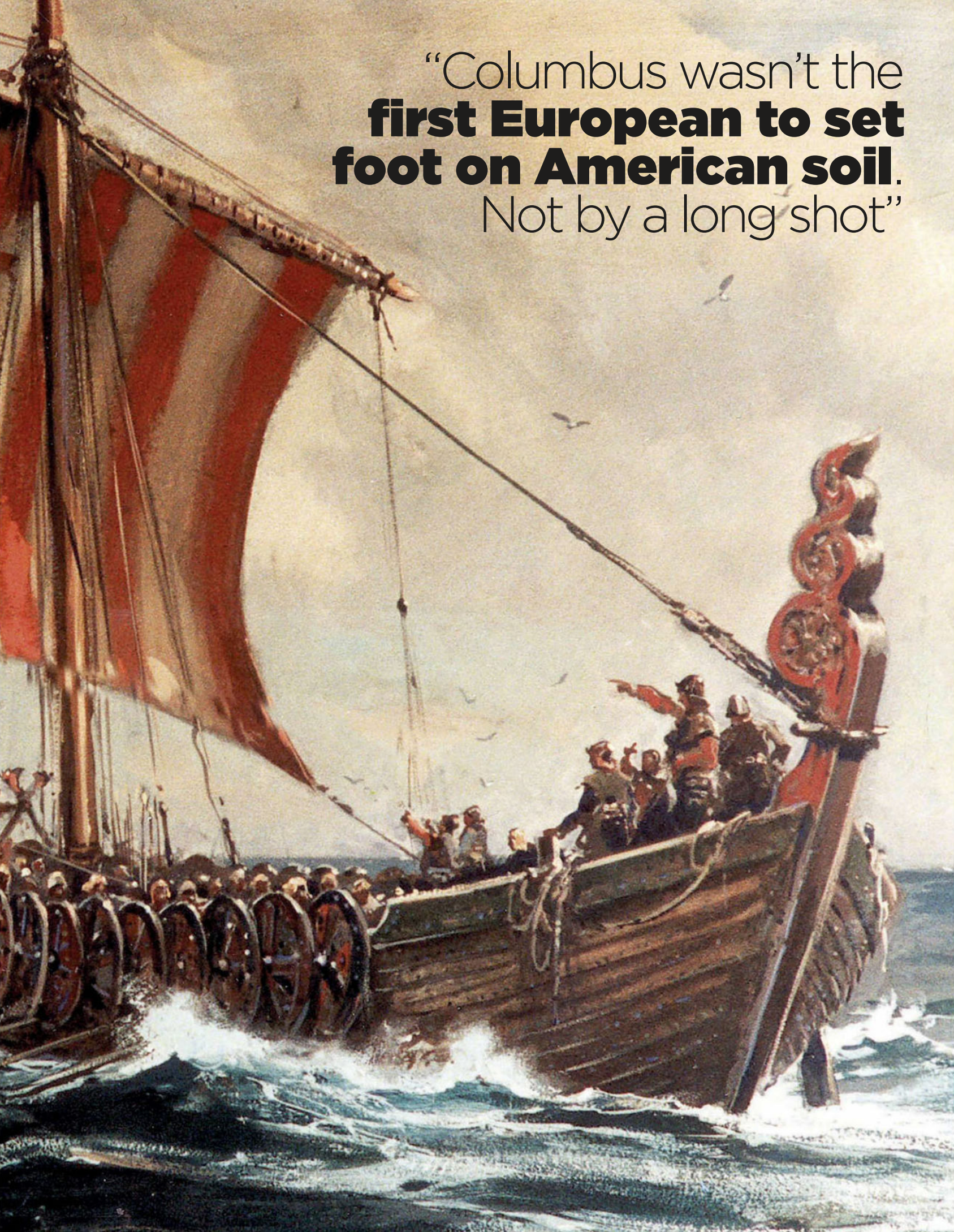


BOLD ADVENTURER
Leif Erikson, the Viking hero and true European discoverer of the Americas

LEIF ERIKSON'S VOYAGE TO VINLAND

Pat Kinsella follows the sagas and explores the exploits of the very first Europeans to visit America

ALAMY X1, AKG X1, GETTY X1



"Columbus wasn't the **first European to set foot on American soil**. Not by a long shot"

The second Monday of October is a federal public holiday in the United States. Known as Columbus Day, it marks the anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas in 1492 – an event that, without doubt, marked a turning point in the fortunes of the conjoined continents, north and south of where he landed. But despite popular perceptions, the Italian explorer wasn't the first European to set foot on American soil. Not by a long shot.

Almost five centuries before Columbus crashed into the Bahamas, a boatload of flaxen-haired white men had made landfall in North America. And while the Vikings' initial discovery of what would become known as the New World was almost certainly a fluke, within a short time Norse explorers led by Leif Erikson and his siblings were deliberately pointing their longboats at the fertile western land. By the early 1000s, a Viking colony was attempting to put down roots in the earthly Valhalla they called Vinland, a place of wine-grapes and wheat.

Leif was from a long line of adventurers, some of whose wanderings were not undertaken entirely voluntarily. His grandfather, Thorvald Asvaldsson, was banished from Norway for manslaughter, a punishment that prompted him to seek a new home for his young family. This he found in Iceland, a land originally discovered by his relative Naddodd. Some 22 years later, Thorvald's son (and Leif's father), Erik the Red, was in turn turfed out of Iceland for killing Eyiolf the Foul. During his exile, he found and settled Greenland.

So Leif had a lot to live up to, but sewing the seeds for the foundation of the first European settlement in the Americas isn't a bad legacy – even if it went unnoticed by most of the world for the next millennium.

But how did this Viking vagabond find his way right across the angry Atlantic with no navigational aids, and what did he hope to find there? Was he even the first white man to set foot on American soil, or did some of his kinsmen get there earlier?

NORSE CODE

It's never easy accurately tracing a tale that begins over a thousand years ago, but luckily the Vikings left a legacy of sagas – detailed written accounts of their heroes' exploits.

However, in the case of Leif and the great American adventure, about two hundred years passed between the action happening and the events being transcribed into the written word. During this time, the stories would have been passed down orally across generations and around the societies of Greenland and Iceland (which became increasingly culturally separated from the Norse homeland of Norway) with inevitable distortions, exaggerations and elaborations being introduced.

The result is not one, but two separate accounts – the Grænlendinga saga (Saga of the

THE MAIN PLAYERS

LEIF ERIKSON
Viking explorer and early Christian evangelist, born sometime between AD 960 and 970, and the second of three sons of Erik the Red and Thjohild. He was also known as 'Leif the Lucky', famed for discovering America.

TYRKER
Leif's older servant – a foster-father figure (possibly a freed German slave), who accompanied the explorer during his American adventure and discovered the 'grapes' that gave the continent the name Vinland.

ERIK THE RED
Leif's father, who, exiled from Iceland for killing Eyiolf the Foul around the year AD 982, was the first to settle Greenland.

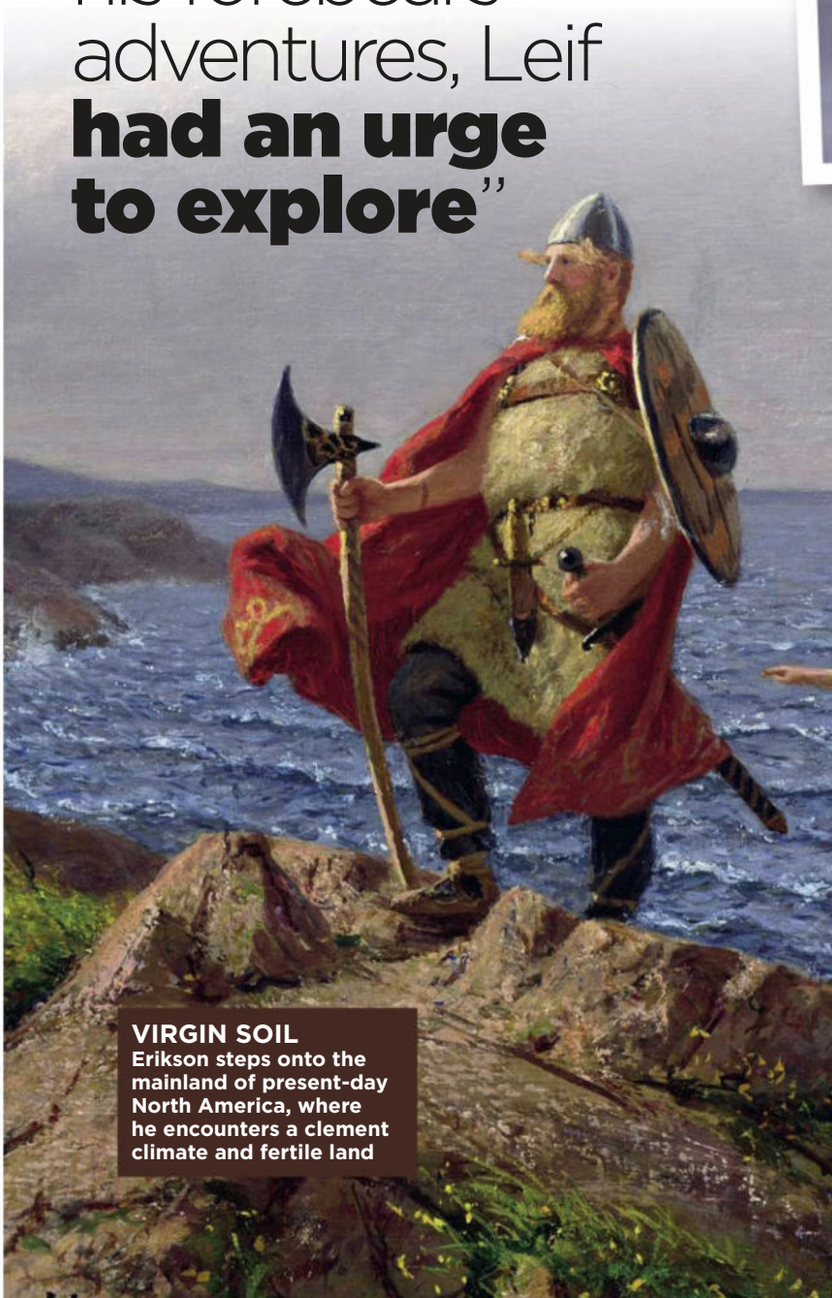
THORVALD ASVALDSSON
Leif's grandfather, who, banished from Norway in AD 960 for manslaughter, went into exile in Iceland, a land first discovered by his relative Naddodd.

BJARNI HERJÓLFSSON
Possibly the very first European to sight the Americas, in circa AD 986. Although unmentioned in the Eiríks saga rauða, in the Grœnlendinga saga Bjarni is blown off course while attempting to reach Greenland, and spots land far to the west, but he chooses not to land.

THORFINN KARLSEFNI
Icelandic explorer and prominent character in the Saga of Erik the Red, in which he is credited with leading the first major expedition to explore North American soil and with establishing a settlement.



"Hearing of his forebears' adventures, Leif **had an urge to explore**"



VIRGIN SOIL
Erikson steps onto the mainland of present-day North America, where he encounters a clement climate and fertile land

ALAMY X1, BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X1, GETTY X1





VIKING VOYAGES
TOP LEFT: **The 'Vinland Map', claimed to date from the 15th century, and documenting Norse exploration** TOP RIGHT: **Leif Erikson's home territory of Greenland** ABOVE: **The weather vane of a Viking ship**

Greenlanders) and the Eiríks saga rauða (Saga of Erik the Red). Collectively, they're known as the Vinland Sagas, and contain differing versions about who did what and when. According to the Grænlendinga saga, the very first person to spot North American soil was a Viking merchant called Bjarni Herjólfsson, who was blown off course by a storm and became lost while attempting to follow his father's route from Iceland to Greenland in around AD 986.

Bjarni never made landfall on the strange new continent, and no-one seemed overly interested in his story for over a decade, until it reached the restless ears of young Leif Erikson. Enthused by the tale, Leif set off on an expedition to explore the mysterious western land, to be followed later by his brothers Thorvald and Thorstein, and his sister Freydis, along with the Icelandic explorer Thorfinn Karlsefni.



35
The number of crew in Leif's expedition to Vinland in AD 1000, as described in the Greenlanders' saga

However, in the Eiríks saga rauða, Leif has a lesser role, simply spotting the coast of North America in much the same way as Bjarni (blown off course and lost while returning from Norway), and it's Thorfinn Karsefni who leads the main expedition to the area named in both books as Vinland.

Although both stories are heavily peppered with fantastic flourishes, historians have long believed they were originally spun with fact-based threads, a theory that was proved correct when a Viking-era settlement was discovered at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland, Canada, in the early 1960s by Norwegian explorer Helge Ingstad and his archaeologist wife Anne Stine Ingstad.

Some scholars consider the Grænlendinga saga, written slightly earlier than the Eiríks saga rauða, to be the more reliable of the two accounts, although the respective stories do share several aspects and characters, and many of the events described are not mutually exclusive of one another.

GREEN LEIF

According to the Viking tradition, as a child Leif was looked after and taught outside the family unit. His tutor and minder was a man called Tyrker, thought to have been a freed German thrall (or slave) captured years earlier by Erik the Red. Tyrker became more of a foster-father figure than a servant to Leif, later accompanying him on his far-ranging expeditions.

Doubtless having heard his father and grandfather's tales of adventure from a young age, by the time he was in his early 20s, Leif was experiencing a strong urge to explore. His initial escapade saw him depart from Greenland in AD 999 on a trip to Norway, where he intended to serve the King, Olaf Tryggvason.

En route, however, Leif's ship was blown off course and extreme weather forced him to take shelter in the Hebrides, off the northwest coast of mainland Scotland. The heavy conditions continued for a month or more, preventing the Vikings from setting sail, but Leif kept himself busy and ended up impregnating the daughter of the local lord who was hosting him. The woman, Thorgunna, gave birth to a son, Thorgils, but not before Leif had left for Norway.

Leif made a good impression on Olaf and the King invited him to join his retinue as a hirdman, one of a close circle of armed soldiers. During his stay in Norway, which lasted for the winter, Leif and his entire crew were converted to Christianity, a faith followed by Olaf, and baptised. In the spring, Leif was given a mission: to introduce Christianity to the people of Greenland. It was a challenge he would eventually set about with enthusiasm, but he hadn't yet sated his appetite for adventure.

The stories surrounding Leif's first encounter with the Americas differ significantly. In the Eiríks saga rauða, storms again blow the

ALL OVER THE MAP

The exact chronology and geography of Leif Erikson's adventures are debatable subjects, with the two primary sources offering differing accounts, but the following is a representation of events primarily described in the Grænlendinga (the Greenlanders' saga), which most scholars accept as being the more reliable text.

1 SPRING/EARLY SUMMER, AD 999
Greenland

Leif departs Greenland, heading for the Norse homeland of Norway, where he intends to serve the King, Olaf Tryggvason. His boat is blown off course, however, and he makes a forced landfall in the Hebrides.

2 SUMMER
Hebrides, Scotland

Confined to the islands for a month or more by extreme weather, Leif is shown hospitality by a local chief and begins an affair with his daughter, Thorgunna, which results in the birth of a son, Thorgils.

3 WINTER
Nidaros (present-day Trondheim), Norway

Upon reaching Norway, Leif is well received by Olaf Tryggvason. While spending the winter in Norway, Leif adopts the Christian faith followed by his host, and is sent back to Greenland on a mission to convert his brethren. According to the Eiríks saga rauða (Saga of Erik the Red), Leif's boat is blown off course again during his return trip, taking him past the area of North America that would later become known as Vinland. Reports differ about whether this happened at all, and, if it did, whether he landed.

4 AD 1000
Brattahlíð (Brattahlid), Greenland

Having either been inspired by the tales of Bjarni Herjólfsson (a Viking trader who spotted the American coast after becoming lost in AD 986) or seeking to return to the fertile land he'd glimpsed while recently returning from Norway (depending on which saga you believe), Leif deliberately sails northwest to locate and explore the mysterious continent.

5 HELLULAND
(believed to be Baffin Island in the present-day Canadian territory of Nunavut)

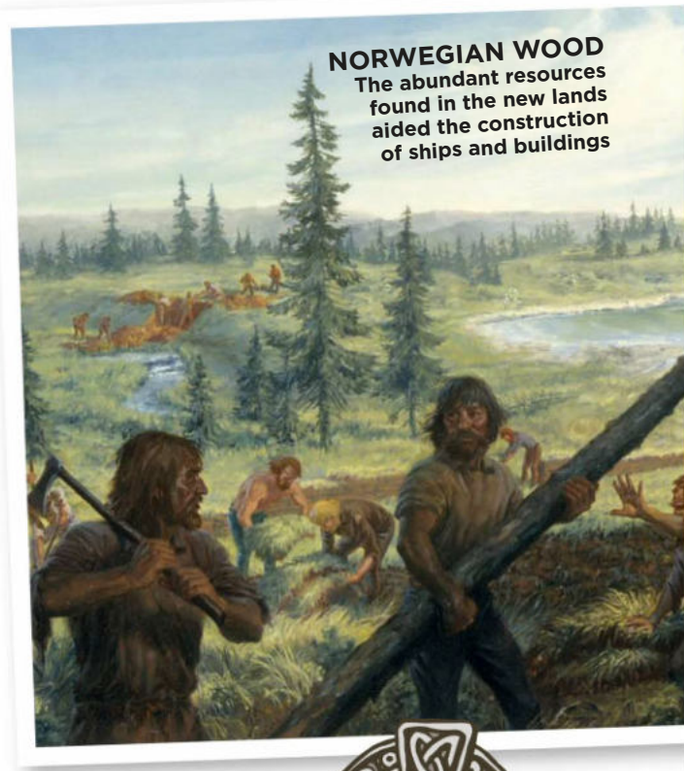
After crossing the icy waters now known as the Davis Strait, Leif encounters a barren and frostbitten coast, which he names Helluland ('stone-slab land').

6 MARKLAND
(probably part of the Labrador coast, Canada)

Sailing on, tracing the coastline south, Leif finds forested terrain skirted by white shoreline. Leif calls this Markland ('wood land'), but he doesn't dwell there long.

7 WINTER AD 1000
Vinland (L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland, Canada)

Pushed along by a north-easterly wind for two days, Leif finally finds the sort of landscape he's been looking for – fertile and full of food including grapes (although these may have been gooseberries). They overwinter here, in a small settlement called Leifsbúðir ('Leif's shelters'). In spring, Leif and his crew sail back to Greenland, carrying a precious cargo of grapes and wood. En route, they chance upon some shipwrecked Vikings, who they save.

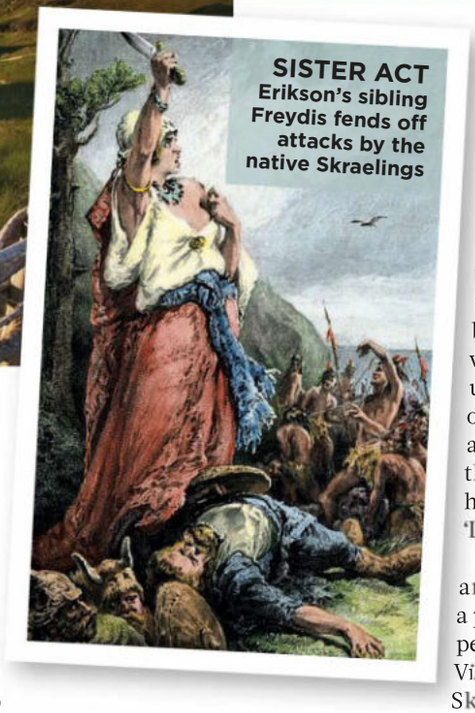


NORWEGIAN WOOD
The abundant resources found in the new lands aided the construction of ships and buildings





HOME FROM HOME
A reconstructed Viking encampment at L'Anse aux Meadows, near Erikson's original settlement



SISTER ACT
Erikson's sibling Freydis fends off attacks by the native Skraelings

returning Viking off course after he leaves Norway, this time taking him so far west he veers close to the coast of a continent that is unfamiliar to all aboard, but which appears promisingly fertile.

In the Grænlendinga saga, however, Leif learns about this mysterious land from Bjarni Herjólfsson, and is so intrigued that he buys Bjarni's *knarr* (boat) and determines to retrace his route. According to this account, with a crew of 35 men, and armed only with a secondhand boat and a verbal description of the route to follow, Leif sets off on his 1,800-mile journey to a completely new world sometime in AD 1000.

Erik, who reportedly harboured reservations about the expedition, was prepared to accompany his son, but pulled out of the trip after falling from his horse not long before departure, which he interpreted as a bad omen.

Undeterred, Leif set sail and followed Bjarni's AD 986 homecoming route in reverse, plotting a course northwest across the top end of the Atlantic. The first place they encountered is described as a barren land, now believed to be Baffin Island. Leif called it as he saw it, and named the place Helluland, meaning 'the land of the flat stones'.

He continued, heading south and skirting the coast of the country we know as Canada. The next place of note, where the landscape changed to become heavily wooded, Leif branded Markland – meaning 'land of forests' – which was likely the shore of Labrador. The country looked promising, not least because of the abundance of trees, something sorely lacked by Greenland (despite its name, which Erik the Red chose to make it sound appealing to the people he wanted to lure there from Iceland). Although wood was in high demand for building homes and boats, Leif kept sailing south.

Eventually, the explorers came to a place, thought to be Newfoundland Island, that ticked all Leif's boxes. The expedition set up camp in a place that would come to be called Leifsbúðir (literally Leif's Booths) near Cape Bauld, close to present-day L'Anse aux Meadows on the northern tip of Newfoundland. Here they spent at least one winter, enthusing about the comparatively mild climate, fertile conditions and abundance of food.

> Leif Erikson is reported to have captured a polar bear cub, which he reared and kept as a pet

One day, Tyrker apparently went missing from a group gathering supplies, and when Leif located him, he was drunk and babbling happily about some berries he'd found.

These are referred to in the saga as grapes, although modern experts think it unlikely that grapes as we know them would have grown so far north, and speculate that Tyrker had been scrumping naturally fermenting squashberries, gooseberries or cranberries. Either way, this discovery was greeted with delight, and the place was subsequently named Vinland, meaning 'land of wine'.

At some point in 1001, laden down with supplies of precious wine 'grapes' and wood, Leif and his men made the return journey to Greenland, full of tales about a western land of bounty and beauty. On their way home, they chanced upon and rescued a group of shipwrecked Norse sailors, an adventure that added to the captain's fame and led to him acquiring the nickname 'Leif the Lucky'.

However, unlike Greenland and Iceland, Vinland had a population of indigenous people – known to later Viking explorers as the Skrælings – who were less than impressed at the sudden arrival of the Scandinavians, and would make this apparent to later expeditions. The next trip was led by Leif's brother Thorvald, who earned the unfortunate honour of becoming the first European to die on the continent when he was killed in a skirmish with the Skrælings.

LEIF'S LEGACY

The American chapter of the Vikings' saga had begun by accident, and their subsequent attempts to deliberately colonise the continent were doomed to fizzle out. Ferocious attacks from First Nation people, climate change and distance from their Norse brethren have all been blamed for their failure.

But these intrepid and fearsome folk knew how to wield pens as well as battleaxes and oars, and news of the Norsemen's globe-bending discovery percolated through European ports over the centuries, influencing the ambitions of later European explorers, including Columbus, who claimed to have visited Iceland in 1477.

Very belatedly, Leif's achievements are now being recognised in the land he explored over 1,000 years ago, with Leif Erikson Day being celebrated on 9 October – the same day that the first organised immigration from Norway to the US took place in 1825. Today, there are more than 4.5 million people of Norwegian ancestry living in the United States; the saga continues.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Leif subsequently remained in Greenland, enthusiastically espousing Christianity, while his brother Thorvald undertook a second expedition to Vinland, during which he was killed. His other brother, Thorstein, attempted to retrieve Thorvald's body, but died following an unsuccessful voyage. His wife, Gudrid Thorbjarnardóttir, then met and married Thorfinn Karlsefni, an Icelandic merchant who subsequently led an attempt to establish a bigger, more permanent settlement on the new continent. This failed, but the couple did give birth to a son, Snorri Thorfinnsson, the first European to be born on the American continent.

Freydís Eiríksdóttir, Leif's sister, also travelled to Vinland, either with Thorfinn Karlsefni or as part of an expedition with two other Icelandic traders, who she subsequently betrayed and had killed (depending on which saga you read). Ultimately, although the terrain offered a good supply of wood and supplies, operating a permanent settlement so far from home proved too hard for the Vikings.

GET HOOKED

VISIT

The L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada, thought to be part of Leif's Vinland and now a World Heritage-listed site at the tip of Newfoundland's Great Northern Peninsula.

READ

Vikings in America by Dr Graeme Davis (Birlinn, 2011).

ILLUSTRATION: SUE GENT, ALAMY X1, GETTY X2



TURNING POINT
French infantry stubbornly defended the village of Blenheim all day, but were eventually surrounded and forced to surrender

BEATEN MAN
A despondent French general finally throws in the towel and surrenders.

Triumph on the Danube

The Duke of Marlborough's victory at Blenheim in 1704 shattered the myth of French invincibility and paved the way for Britain's emergence as a world power. **Julian Humphrys** explains...

As evening fell in Bavaria on 13 August 1704, a weary Duke of Marlborough climbed down from his horse and hastily scrawled a message to his wife on the back of an old tavern bill: "I have not time to say more but to beg you will give my duty to the Queen and let her know her army has had a glorious victory." Marlborough's triumph cemented his reputation as the greatest general of his age. It also helped prevent France from dominating Europe.

ALAMY X1, BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X1, GETTY X1

VICTORY AT LAST
After leading the attacks on Blenheim, the Earl of Orkney accepts the surrender of the French troops in the village.



DUKE IT OUT
John Churchill was the first Earl of Marlborough

THE MAKING OF THE DUKE

Born into a family of royalist gentry that had been impoverished during the Civil War, John Churchill first joined the army in 1667. He rose to become second-in-command of the royal army that defeated the Monmouth rebellion at Sedgemoor in 1685, but he deserted King James II for William of Orange during the so-called Glorious Revolution. Under William, he was created Earl of Marlborough and went on to command English forces in Ireland and Flanders, but also spent a month as a prisoner in the Tower on suspicion of being a secret Jacobite. In 1702, he was appointed Captain General of the Allied armies in the war against France and made a duke. Despite his relatively humble origins, Marlborough was well-connected. His wife, Sarah, was a close friend of Queen Anne, and his sister, Arabella, had been the mistress of the future James II. Their son, the Duke of Berwick, followed his father into exile and went on to become one of Louis XIV's most successful generals.

BATTLE CONTEXT

When
13 August 1704

Where
Blenheim, Bavaria

Why
Part of War of Spanish Succession

Who
France and Bavaria (Marshals Tallard and Marsin) 56,000 men, 90 guns

Grand Alliance England, Scotland, Austria, Holland, Denmark, Prussia and other German States (Duke of Marlborough, Prince Eugene of Savoy) 52,000 men, 66 guns

Result
Crushing defeat of French and Bavarians

Losses
Grand Alliance c12,000 killed and wounded

French and Bavarians c20,000 killed, wounded and drowned, 14,000 captured

13
The length, in years, of the War of the Spanish Succession, of which the Battle of Blenheim was part

When the childless King Charles II of Spain died in 1700, he left his throne – together with all his territory in the Netherlands, Italy and the Americas – to Philip of Anjou, the grandson of Louis XIV of France. The prospect of Philip eventually becoming king of both France and Spain filled many European states with alarm. To counter Louis XIV's growing dominance, England, the Dutch Republic, Austria and Prussia, and a number of other states, revived the Grand Alliance that had been formed against France in the 1680s. Meanwhile, France allied itself with Spain and Bavaria, and war broke out.

The opening years of the conflict were largely indecisive but, in 1704, the Grand Alliance found itself faced with a major crisis: French and Bavarian forces stood poised to capture Vienna and thus knock Austria out of the war. In response to this threat, Marlborough, who was in command of the Allied forces in the Low Countries,

acted decisively. He marched his army some 400 kilometres from Flanders to invade Bavaria, where he joined forces with his ally, the Imperial general Prince Eugene of Savoy. It was a triumph of organisation and logistics, and it was in a large part due to the efforts of the Dutch, who laid on much-needed supplies at very short notice.

HIGHER GROUND

On 13 August, Marlborough confronted the Franco-Bavarians near Höchstadt. Two armies had joined forces to face him: one under Marshal Tallard and one under Marshal Marsin and Elector Maximilian of Bavaria. On the face of it, the Franco-Bavarian position was a strong one. Their troops were drawn up on higher ground behind marshy land along the Nebel stream, with their flanks protected on one side by the River Danube and on the other by woods. They further strengthened their lines by fortifying three villages: Blenheim, Oberglau and Lutzingen.

But Marlborough had spotted a flaw in the way the enemy had deployed. Instead of uniting into a single line of battle, Tallard and Marsin had drawn up their forces separately and, while their flanks were strong, the area where the two armies met was dangerously weak. Marlborough's plan was simple: pin down the Franco-Bavarians on the flanks before smashing through the centre.

It took a while for Prince Eugene's forces to march into their positions on the right of the Allied line, so Marlborough ordered the bands in his army to strike up a tune. The French responded in kind and for some time the only battle was a musical one, as the bandsmen of each army sought to outdo each other before the fighting began. Eventually, the artillery of both armies opened fire, and while Marlborough was riding up and down supervising the bridging of the Nebel stream, a large French cannonball came bouncing along towards him. Much to the relief of those nearby, it narrowly missed him, but left him liberally coated with dust.

13
The number of hours that the battle lasted, from the first shots to the final surrender

Marlborough began the battle by ordering an assault on the village of Blenheim on the French right. Led by Lord Cutts, a much-wounded veteran who was nicknamed 'the Salamander' because he could always be found where the fire was hottest, two brigades of British redcoats marched forward in close order. The village had been fortified



FRENCH FAILURE
Marshal Tallard surrenders to Marlborough after France's vanquishing

"While the French flanks were strong, the area where the two armies met was dangerously weak"



TAKING THE PLUNGE
In a bid to escape, some French cavalrymen try to swim their horses across the river Danube.

GIRL POWER

A major factor in Marlborough's rise to prominence was the friendship of his wife, Sarah, with Queen Anne. The pair enjoyed a close, if somewhat tempestuous, relationship and even had pet names for each other. Sarah called Anne 'Mrs Morley' and Anne dubbed Sarah 'Mrs Freeman'. For many years, Sarah – a devoted supporter of the Whig party – was able to exert considerable political influence upon the queen who initially valued Sarah's plain speaking. But as time went on, the queen grew tired of Sarah's increasingly hectoring manner and found a new confidante in Sarah's cousin Abigail Masham. Anne shifted her support to the Tory party who wanted to bring the war with France to an end. In 1711, Sarah was dismissed from court, Marlborough stripped of his offices and the pair went into self-imposed exile until the accession of King George I brought about a revival in their fortunes.

RIGHT HAND TO THE THRONE
The Duchess of Marlborough (*right*) was close to Queen Anne (*far right*)

AKG IMAGES X1, GETTY X3

HOW MARLBOROUGH PROVED VICTORIOUS





1. British troops attack Blenheim village
2. Prince Eugene's attacks tie down French and Bavarian troops
3. French reinforcements are moved from the centre of Tallard's army to reinforce Blenheim
4. Marlborough's troops break through the weakened French centre. Some swing round to cut off the French troops in Blenheim

CARTED AWAY
After being captured in the battle, the French Marshal Tallard is taken to the rear in his own carriage.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
While drummers and a trumpeter relay his orders, the Duke of Marlborough issues instructions to his generals and staff officers.

MILITARY MIND
Marlborough's battlefield acumen inflicted a heavy defeat upon the French

with barricades of overturned carts and, as the British came into range, the French defenders opened a devastating fire. The redcoats were mown down in droves and the attack faltered.

INTO FLAMES

Undeterred, the British tried again, this time with the support of Hessian troops, but once again the attack came to a halt in the face of the withering French musketry. Blenheim remained in French hands, but the British attacks had panicked Clerambault, the French commander on the spot, into pouring even more troops into the village. Soon Blenheim was packed with 12,000 men and the French centre was even weaker than ever.

14,000
The number of French soldiers taken captive. They included Marshal Tallard

Meanwhile, on the far side of the battlefield, Eugene was attacking the Elector of Bavaria and Marshal Marsin's troops around the villages of Oberglau and Lutzingen. His men also suffered heavy casualties and three attacks were beaten back, but their determined assaults pinned down large numbers of Franco-Bavarians and prevented them from intervening where it really mattered – the centre of the battlefield. Marlborough now launched masses of infantry and cavalry against that very spot.

After first driving off an attempted counter-attack by the French cavalry, the Allies made their move. Despite the gallant resistance of nine battalions of young French infantrymen who stood their ground and virtually died to a man, they smashed through the French centre and then wheeled left and right to attack the French and Bavarians in the flank and rear. The majority of Tallard's troops tried to retreat to nearby Höchstädt, but many never made it the town. More than 3,000 of them drowned in the Danube, including Clerambault who had vainly tried to swim his horse across the river in a desperate bid to escape.

"They smashed through the French centre and then wheeled left and right"

The collapse of their centre left the men on the French right flank cut off and surrounded in Blenheim. They fought on until dusk, even though the village was on fire; many of their wounded comrades died, screaming, in the flames. Eventually the French accepted the inevitable and surrendered. At the cost of 12,000 men killed and wounded, Marlborough and Eugene had inflicted a devastating blow to the Franco-Bavarian forces who suffered at least 20,000 casualties and lost 14,000 men taken prisoner. It had been a crushing defeat for the French. Austria had been saved and, that November, Bavaria withdrew from the war altogether.

Marlborough returned to England a hero. Tallard wouldn't see France again for seven years. After his capture at Blenheim, he was brought back to England and housed in a comfortable residence in Nottingham. He soon became a popular member of the local social scene, hosting dinners and soirees, and is credited with introducing the English to the delights of celery.

When hostilities between England and France finally came to an end, Tallard was released and returned to France. He might have expected something of a frosty reception when he was presented to Louis XIV at Versailles. But as Tallard stooped to kneel before his monarch, the king broke all convention. Stepping forward to help the elderly marshal to his feet, he murmured "Welcome back, old friend".





CELEBRATION IN STONE
At Blenheim Palace, an English lion mauls a French cockerel above its entrance gate

THE FRUITS OF VICTORY: BLENHEIM PALACE

The Duke of Marlborough was showered with rewards after his victory at Blenheim. Queen Anne gave him the royal hunting estate at Woodstock and a grateful Parliament voted him money to have a monumental country home – Blenheim Palace – built on the site. The building, designed by the baroque architect Sir John Vanbrugh, became the subject of considerable controversy, particularly over exactly who was to pay for it. Public funds dried up after the duke's fall from grace in 1712 and later work on the building was eventually paid for by the Churchill family themselves, with Marlborough's wife Sarah keen to oversee its completion as a memorial to her late husband.

Blenheim is the only palace in Britain not to belong to royalty or a bishop and is still the home of the Dukes of Marlborough.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT

Two years later, Marlborough again beat the French, this time at Ramillies. He followed this up with victories at Oudenarde in 1708 and Malplaquet in 1709. By now, France was faced with the real threat of invasion but allied unity broke. In 1710, the Tories came to power in Britain and resolved to end the war. A series of peace treaties saw Philip recognised a king of Spain but forced to renounce his claim to the throne of France. Spain lost a number of European territories while Britain gained Gibraltar, Minorca and land in the New World.



HISTORY REPEATING
Two years after Blenheim, the duke led his troops to another victory over the French, at Ramillies

GET HOOKED

Find out more about the battle and those involved

BOOK
Blenheim: Battle for Europe (W&N, 2005) was written by Lord Charles Spencer, brother of Diana, Princess of Wales.

ALAMY X2, BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X1


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DID YOU KNOW?

In 1801, fewer than 500 people lived in Blackpool. By the beginning of the 20th century, the population had surpassed 50,000.



ON THE PROM, PROM, PROM...
Blackpool's waterfront in 1890, as seen from the town's North Pier





ROYAL RETREAT Victoria, Albert and their children at the beach near Osborne

THE VICTORIAN SEASIDE

Now a much-loved British tradition, the seaside holiday hasn't always been the highlight of our drizzly summers. **Anna Harris** investigates its royal roots and enduring popularity

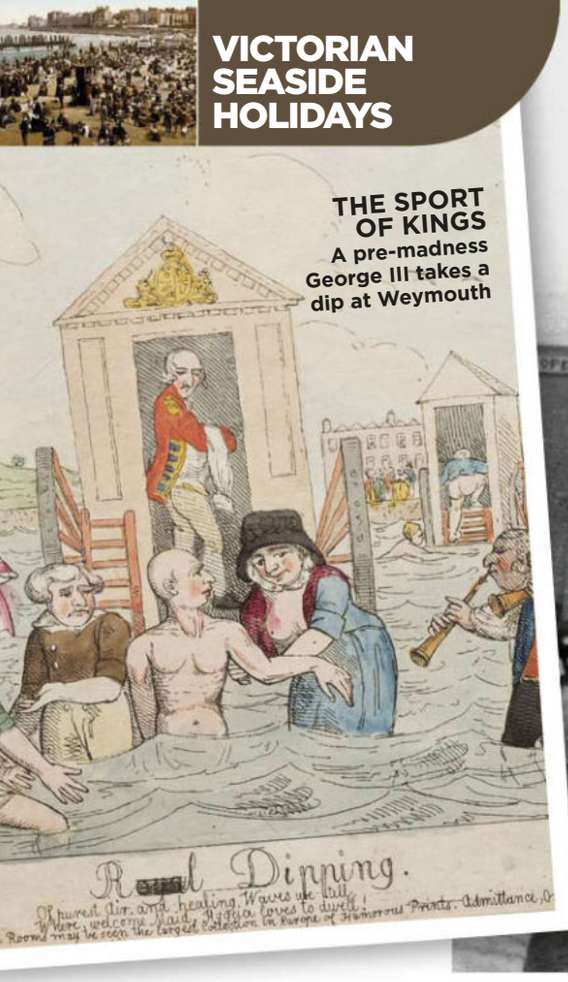
Always one to keep up with the latest technology, it was Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, who had a bathing machine installed for his wife, thereby putting the royal stamp of approval on sea bathing as a respectable activity. Recounting her inaugural dip at Osborne in her journal in 1847, Victoria wrote: "Drove down to the beach with my maid and went into the bathing machines, where I undressed and bathed in the sea... I thought it delightful till I put my head under water, when I thought I should be stifled." Her state-of-the-art machine, complete with changing room, plumbed-in toilet and curtained veranda, enabled the Queen to enjoy the salty delights of the Solent while preserving her modesty against any spyglass-wielding sea-goers.

Osborne, purchased in 1845 as an escape from court life, was Victoria and Albert's own private seaside resort and the royal family spent many summers there. At this Isle of Wight idyll, they enjoyed Punch and Judy, skittles and, in a nod to the growing Victorian fascination with natural history, the simple pleasures of rock-pooling and shell collecting. "Picking up shells is such a never ending joy to the children. How it pleases their young minds!" noted the Queen in 1851, depicting an idealised version of family life that fashionable Victorians bustled to imitate. A seaside holiday with the offspring was now de rigueur.

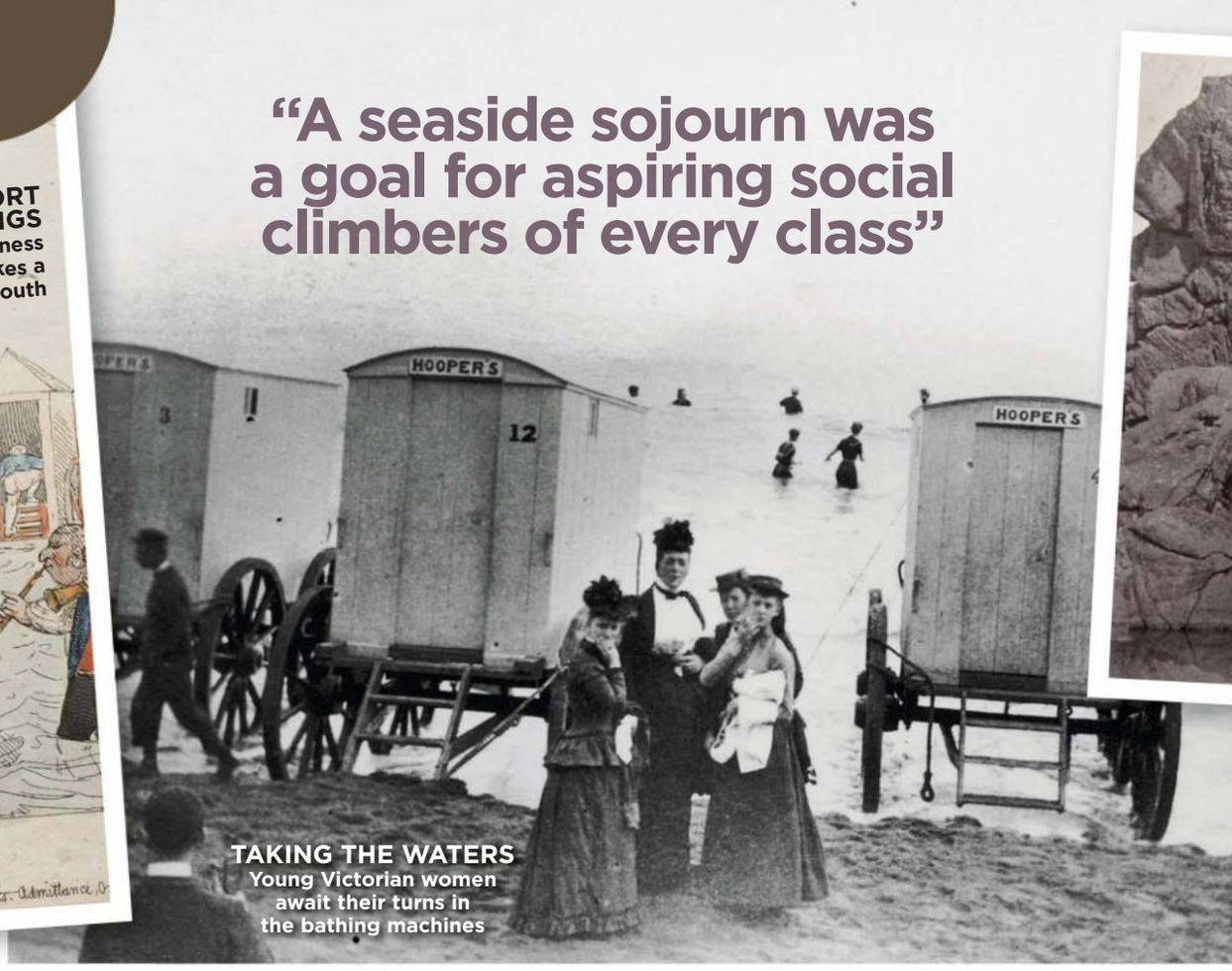
With its nostalgic connotations of innocent bucket-and-spade fun, donkey rides, fish and chips and strolling along the prom, the traditional British seaside holiday was, like Christmas festivities, essentially invented by the Victorians. Initially the preserve of the aristocracy, a combination of industrialisation (which provided a steady wage and more leisure time), changes in employment legislation, and the development of the railway meant that, by the end of the 19th century, going on holiday was a regular part of life for a great many Victorians.

The chance to swap the daily grind of life in an industrial town for a sunny

BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X1, GETTY X2



THE SPORT OF KINGS
A pre-madness George III takes a dip at Weymouth



TAKING THE WATERS
Young Victorian women await their turns in the bathing machines

"A seaside sojourn was a goal for aspiring social climbers of every class"

week at the seashore was a concept that saw little-known fishing villages and ports bloom into flourishing towns, eager to capitalise on this new breed of tourist who now had time to spare and money to spend. There would be entertainments to appeal to all tastes and accommodation to suit all pockets – from elegant hotels for the wealthy factory owners, bankers, merchants, lawyers, engineers and businessmen, to grubby boarding houses run by demonic landladies, who offered rooms to labourers, seamstresses and factory workers.

SOCIAL MIX

Away from the stifling constraints of polite society, seaside life was enticingly casual, which meant people of all classes who would normally have little to do with each other simply had to learn to rub along. This is how the uniquely British seaside holiday started to take shape. Not only did it create a whole host of traditions that still resonate today, but it caused a social mash-up on a scale never seen before.

Yet the British weren't always so fond of the sea. Until the 19th century, people weren't the slightest bit interested in the 11,000 or so miles of their country's coastline. The fashion, for those who could afford it, had been to visit hot springs and mineral spas – originally a medieval practice – for their alleged health-giving benefits. Then, prominent medical professionals deemed that sea water had similar properties. In the 1750s, Brighton-based Dr Richard Russell proclaimed that sea water was superior to those cures provided by inland spas. In 1753, he published a dissertation that recommended a bit of the briny for healing various diseases, particularly those of the glands. In 1769, William Buchan's book *Domestic Medicine* also advocated the practice. It was enough to encourage the well-heeled to risk a trip to the seaside for their health.

DID YOU KNOW?
If a resort played host to royalty or aristocrats, local newspapers would publish names, along with accommodation addresses, to highlight the status of their town and attract more well-heeled visitors.

As well as being viewed by the discerning of their day as a cure-all, a seaside sojourn was a goal for aspiring social climbers of every class because it was what the aristocracy and well-to-do did. Decades before Victoria and Albert's adoption of seaside pleasures as an integral part of idyllic family life, George III (before madness completely overtook him) was a regular visitor to Weymouth. His wife, Queen Charlotte, declared the King was "much better and stronger for sea bathing", and the pair visited the resort almost every year from 1788 until 1805, making it a most sought-after spot.

Meanwhile, George III's son, the Prince Regent, was busy transforming a Sussex fishing village into England's most fashionable resort. His Brighton Pavilion, an opulent architectural fusion of Regency grandeur with spicy Indian and Chinese overtones that was built between 1787 and 1823, was his personal seaside pleasure palace. Here, this merry member of the monarchy could indulge his passions for cuisine, gaming, the theatre and fast living. The seaside and the notion of 'having a good time' were now inextricably linked.

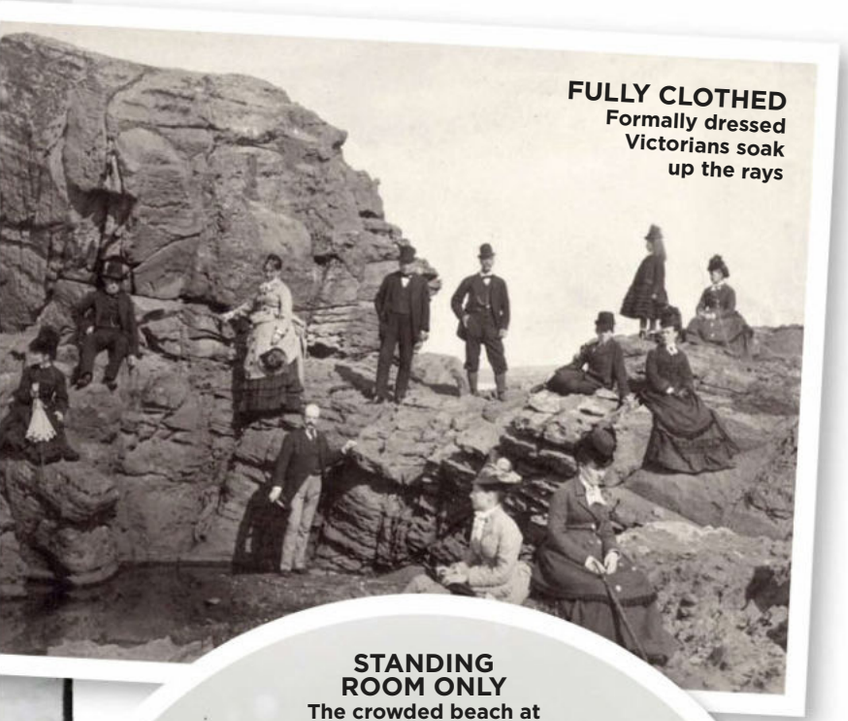
THE RISE OF RESORTS

From the 1840s onwards, the emergence of the railways provided easier, cheaper, faster access to the coast for lower-middle-class families and working-class day-trippers. The Bank Holidays Act of 1871 saw paid leave gradually becoming the norm and, by the latter half of the 19th century, most 'white collar' – or, to use Victorian parlance, 'black coat' – workers received a week's holiday every year. Cheap, easily reachable leisure resorts were suddenly in high demand.

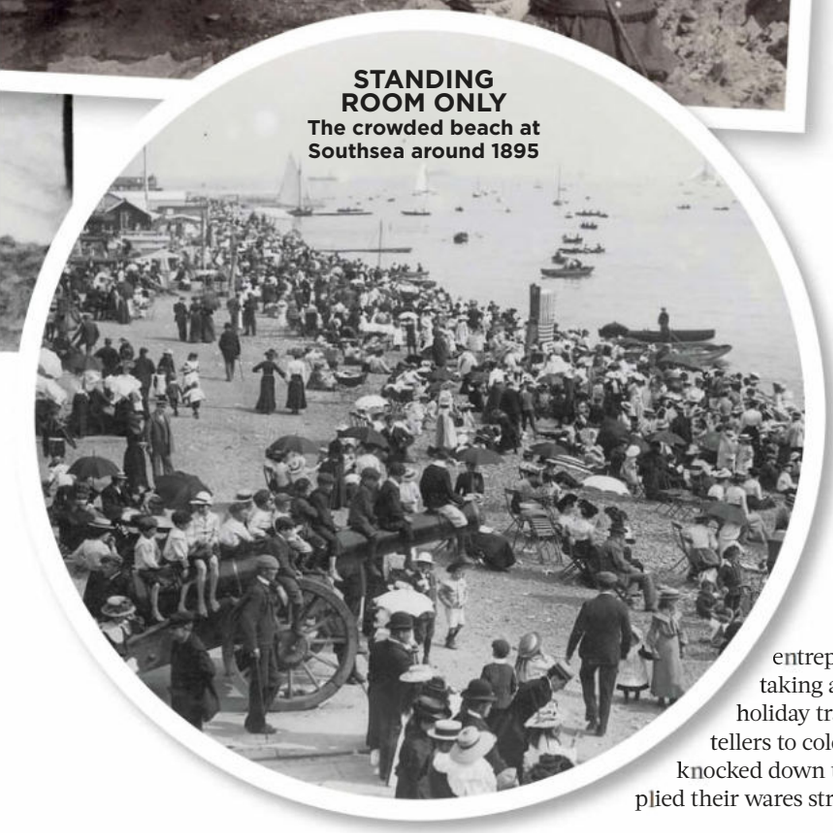
Holiday hotspots began to spring up around the country. Morecambe became known as Bradford-on-Sea as direct train links to West Yorkshire meant mill owners and their workers holidayed there, while Blackpool established itself as the world's first working-class seaside resort. The town flourished as a result of the cotton mill owners' practice of closing factories for a week a year to service the machinery. Each town's mills would close for a different 'wakes week', as these periods were known, giving Blackpool a reliable stream of visitors throughout the summer months.

Tapping into the lucrative London market and the spa-goers from Bath, developments began to pop up across south-east England. Soon there were resorts dotted around the coastline, most notably at Margate, Weymouth, Brighton, Bournemouth, Worthing, Swanage, Dover, Southend, Bridlington, Skegness,

BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X1, GETTY X4



FULLY CLOTHED
Formally dressed Victorians soak up the rays

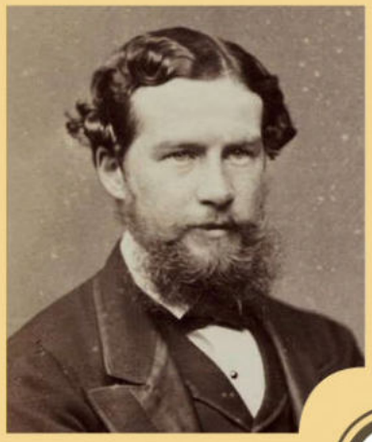


STANDING ROOM ONLY
The crowded beach at Southsea around 1895

WORKING-CLASS HOLIDAYS

For the working class, holidays meant a cheap day out, usually arranged by Sunday schools, temperance societies or their employers. It was the Lancashire mill workers who put some muscle behind establishing a proper annual holiday. They would save their pennies over the year and take advantage of the traditional 'wakes' holidays (when factories were closed for machinery maintenance – unpaid for most until after World War II) to have a week at the seaside.

Londoners depended more on the August Bank Holiday, coined 'St Lubbock's Day' after its inventor, Sir John Lubbock. The 1871 Act, achieved through the legislative efforts of this banker/scientist/social reformer, was the first time that people were given time off by law just for the sake of it. Little by little, more people could take a week off, but it was not until 1938 that the right to a paid holiday became established.



HERO OF THE PEOPLE
Sir John Lubbock, 'inventor' of August Bank Holiday

Llandudno, Scarborough, Southport, Torquay and Ilfracombe.

The seaside resort was now a commercial proposition with a pier, enabling visitors to walk right out to sea without having to get wet or undressed, and often became the focus of business investment. Consortiums of local businessmen, never ones to miss a trick, would get together to organise the finance and appoint agents to get the centrepiece of their seaside town constructed to lure in the crowds.

Commercialisation and mass production swiftly followed, with many familiar seaside commodities beginning to appear, such as picture postcards, cigarettes, mineral water, whelk stands, ice-cream carts and fish and chips – a hearty fast-food meal that could be eaten straight out of the wrappings, giving polite table manners the heave-ho. Travelling photographers and street vendors jostled the beachside crowds and anyone with an ounce of entrepreneurial spirit set about taking advantage of the passing holiday trade – from fortune-tellers to cold drink sellers – who knocked down their garden fences and plied their wares straight onto the street.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

The entertainment industry also jumped on the beach-going bandwagon, with clowns, minstrels, variety bands and bawdy music-hall turns – with a repertoire of songs about mothers-in-law, bailiffs, overdue rent, drink, unfaithful wives and hen-pecked husbands – all eager to have their share of the seaside shilling. Those acts with music-hall roots, known as 'free and easies', did not sit well with Victorian moral reformers who considered they represented the very worst excesses of leisure, namely drunkenness and obscenity.

However, once it became clear that there was money to be made, music-hall proprietors smartened up their act. The publication of popular songs as sheet music became big business, employing many lower-middle-class songwriters and, by the 1880s, the music hall had become sufficiently respectable that it attracted a more prosperous clientele.

The leisure revolution was well under way, and Victorians of all classes in pursuit of pleasure had never had it so good. This new, sophisticated tourist demanded more than donkey rides and the Punch and Judy man. Competition was fierce and resorts were keen to outdo each other in terms of the wondrous entertainments they could provide.

Rhyl in north Wales opened its winter gardens in the 1870s, complete with tropical plants, skating rink, zoo and theatre. Blackpool and Southend offered 'pleasure palaces', which combined variety acts and dancing with all manner of exotic exhibitions. Blackpool also boasted three pleasure piers. Built in 1863, North Pier was famous for its shows, shops and amusements, while – five years later – Central Pier boasted a big wheel. Opening in 1893, Victoria Pier (now South Pier) had a circus-marquee-style front with a theatre inside.

And, of course, there was the Eiffel Tower-inspired Blackpool Tower, opened in 1894, with its chandelier-decked ballroom, along with the town's famous illuminations – a testament to the marvels that could be achieved with the newly invented electric lightbulb. The combination of eye-popping architecture, gaudy glamour, glorious sea views and family-

Continues on p66

THE SEASIDE PIER

▼ Piers were first built as landing stages to accommodate upper-class travellers, allowing them to alight from steamers without getting their feet wet, but they soon became attractions in their own right. Dressed in restrictively formal outfits even when *en vacances*, where better for a Victorian holidaymaker to strut their stiff crinoline than along the pier? To keep the riff-raff at bay, there were turnstiles and pay kiosks with prices rising as you progressed along: a halfpenny entrance fee, a penny to sit down and sixpence if you could afford to get into the dance hall at the end.

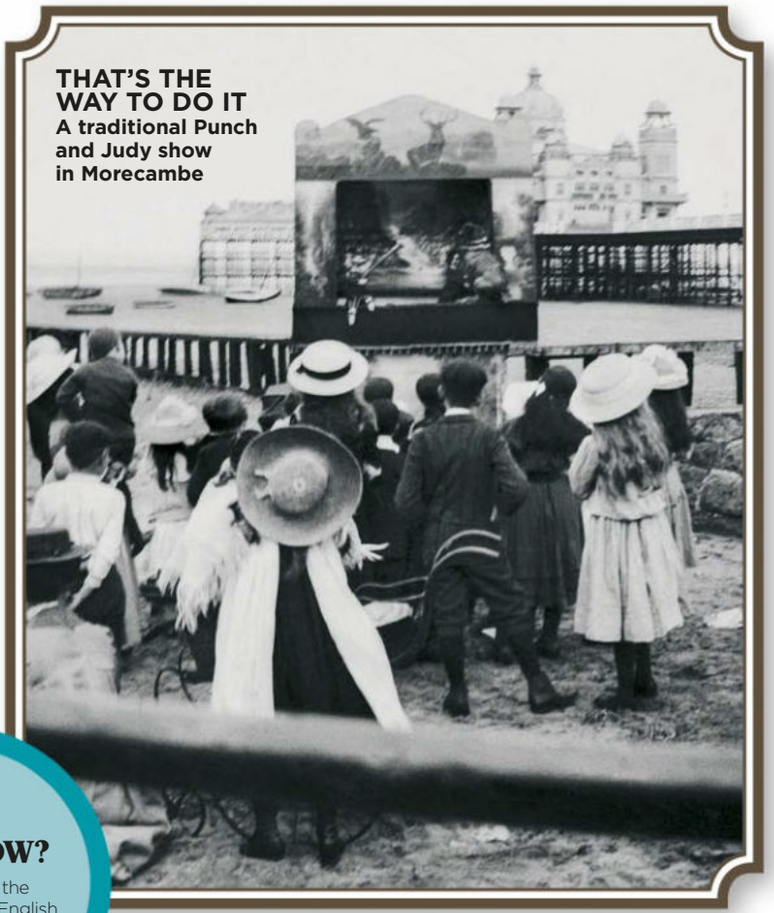
Between 1814 and 1905, 100 piers were built in Britain, in places such as Brighton, Aberystwyth and Margate. Sixty of them remain today. One at Hastings became the first purpose-built 'pleasure pier', with a built-in entertainment complex incorporating a 2,000-seat pavilion, which opened on the second-ever August Bank Holiday in 1872.



PIER PRESSURE
Resorts were often in competition with one another to offer the best pier-based entertainment

DID YOU KNOW?

By the end of the 19th century, the English coastline had more than 100 large resort towns.



THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT
A traditional Punch and Judy show in Morecambe

PUNCH AND JUDY

▲ This legendary puppet show has its origins in the *commedia dell'arte* street theatre of 16th-century Italy. At some point, string puppets replaced the actors to keep costs down. During the Victorian era, Punch and Judy shows using hand puppets could be seen in all major cities across Britain, with Mr Punch mocking politicians of the day in his distinctive voice. This was created by a swazzle, usually made from bone or ivory, that was tricky to master and easy to swallow.

The shows were not just for children. The marital strife between Punch and his wife Judy struck a chord with many adults, including Charles Dickens, who was a big fan. Punchmen began to perform in private homes, where they modified their show to suit a more refined audience, but it was the seaside where the Punch and Judy show became a standard part of beachside entertainment.



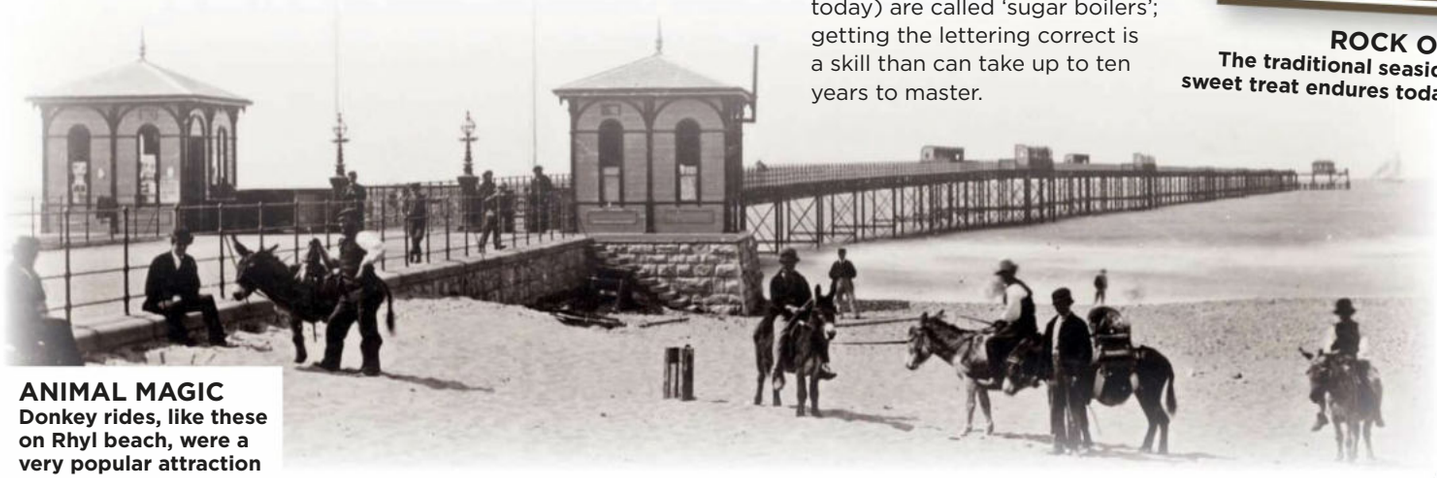
FRONT-ROW SEAT
Edwardian holiday-makers recline in their deckchairs

The Deckchair

▶ The deckchair, one of the most baffling pieces of beach furniture ever invented, evolved from an original design by John Thomas Moore of Macclesfield. Moore developed two types of adjustable folding chair – the Waverley, described as "the best ship or lawn tennis chair", and the Hygienic, which was a rocking chair "valuable for those with sluggish and constipated bowels". Using a single broad strip of canvas (originally only available in 'olive green'; candy stripes came later) as a seat is credited to a British inventor named Atkins. Sometimes referred to as the 'Brighton beach chair', the term 'deckchair' was used in the works of Victorian novelist E Nesbit in the 1880s. The hiring out of deckchairs on promenades and piers became the norm in British seaside resorts in the early 20th century.

Donkey Rides

▼ A donkey ride at the seaside remains an important rite of passage for small children to this day. Weston-super-Mare and Bridlington – in 1886 and 1896, respectively – were two of the first resorts to offer children a trot across the sand, but where did the donkeys come from? It's likely they were originally working draught animals in the cockle industries around the coast, until someone cottoned on to the fact that there was another way of making money from them.



ANIMAL MAGIC
Donkey rides, like these on Rhyl beach, were a very popular attraction

Seaside Rock

▶ Originally sold at fairgrounds in the 19th century, enterprising ex-miner Ben Bullock from Burnley began manufacturing sticks of brightly coloured lettered candy at his Yorkshire-based confectionery factory in 1887 after conceiving of the idea while holidaying in Blackpool. Bullock sent his first batch of lettered rock to retailers in Blackpool, where it was well received, and seaside rock was born. The craftsmen (who still make it by hand today) are called 'sugar boilers'; getting the lettering correct is a skill than can take up to ten years to master.



ROCK ON
The traditional seaside sweet treat endures today

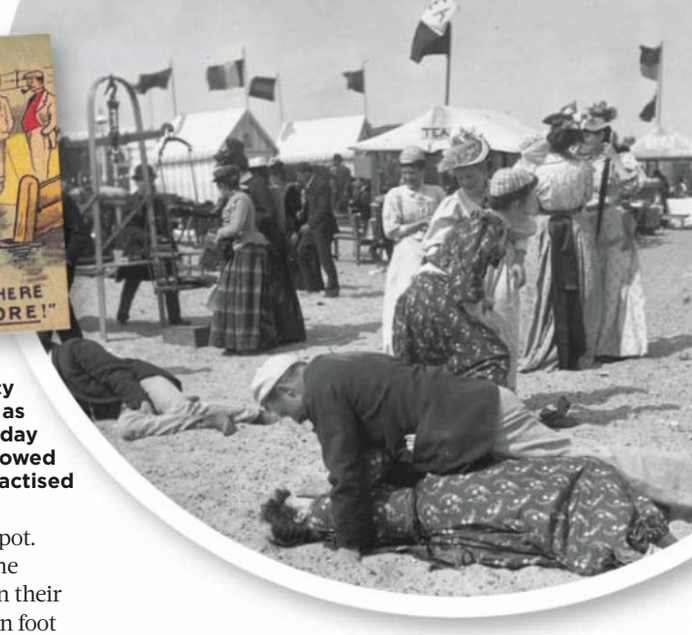
ALAMY X1, GETTY X4, REX/SHUTTERSTOCK X1

friendly attractions that would not stretch beyond a family's budget (but still turn a profit), was a hit. The seaside had become the ultimate escape and, each summer season, 250,000 holidaymakers from all over the north descended on Blackpool's golden sands.

ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE

The seaside resort was a mixed bag of all-sorts, offering all things to all people, and this contributed to its universal popularity. This strange brew of people, entertainments and places to spend your coin was not missed by the humorists of the day. Social historian, Professor John K Walton, notes: "They depicted Brighton as a carnival of strange juxtapositions between fashionable high society and its imitators and an exotic medley of Cockney trippers and vulgar, assertive stallholders and alfresco entertainers."





ABOVE: **The tradition of saucy seaside postcards prospered as inhibitions were lifted on holiday**
RIGHT: **Sun, sea and... Holidays allowed intimacy to be more openly practised**

The seaside was a great social melting pot. Everyone came out to see and be seen. The rich in their luxury carriages (and later in their shiny motor cars) joined the onlookers on foot and done up to the nines, trying to spot the celebrities of the day. It all got too much for the wealthiest holiday makers, who moved along to more genteel locations – or yachted with friends of their own class. This left the more accessible resorts to cope with, as Walton puts it, "the novelty of a working-class presence of growing dimensions and spending power, especially young people with wages and few responsibilities, and older men who lacked family commitments or chose to cast them aside".

Seaside resorts became a place where pursuing the opposite sex was central to the fun – a fantasy world where the usual class-ridden etiquettes and inhibitions could be easily suppressed by the holiday atmosphere. Young ladies donned their most stylish attire to obscure their social status in the hope of bagging a more eligible partner behind the bandstand. Daring young coves could peek through penny-a-go telescopes, hoping to catch a glimpse of ankle as ladies emerged from their bathing machines.

No wonder, then, that the seaside was the place where saucy postcard humour developed. It also played a significant part in breaking down the prim attitudes of late-Victorian middle-class society.

But every bubble eventually bursts and the popularity of the great British seaside holiday and its curious mix of escapist glamour, cheap tat, innocent fun and gentle sauciness declined in the mid 20th century. The rise of the low-cost package holiday made foreign holidays possible for ordinary working people – just as train travel had made seaside holidays a reality for their great grandparents a century earlier.

Yet, the spirit of the traditional seaside holiday has not been diminished by the years. The original Victorian ideal of the simple pleasures the seaside can offer – a shivery dip in the sea, collecting seashells to reminisce over on a wintery day – things that Victoria and Albert cherished so dearly, remains firmly embedded in the British soul.

> "The seaside was a great social melting pot"

SUMMER WARDROBE

DID YOU KNOW?

Until the 1860s, men were permitted to bathe nude. After then, swimming drawers – as they were called – were required to be worn. Many gentlemen protested, preferring to brave the waves au naturel.



ALAMY X1, GETTY X2

No self-respecting Victorian lady would depart for her holiday without a large trunk packed to the brim with her best outfits. Even though the fashionable crinolines of the day were completely unsuitable for wind-swept strolls along the sand, this was Victorian Britain and standards had to be maintained at all times. Millinery was also a must, with ribbon streamer straw hats a great seaside favourite in the mid-1850s. Also popular were bonnets with brims of cane covered in silk. These were called 'uglies' and were used to protect a lady's porcelain complexion from the sun.

Young men aimed for a snazzy, nautical look and, by the turn of the century, chaps in straw boaters, stripy blazers and white flannels were cutting a dash along the promenade. Local newspapers such as the *Scarborough Gazette* even ran regular fashion notes to help the summer set.

FASHION PARADE
The Victorian bather took her attire very seriously

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Is the traditional seaside holiday one of the last remnants of Victorian society still visible in 21st-century Britain?

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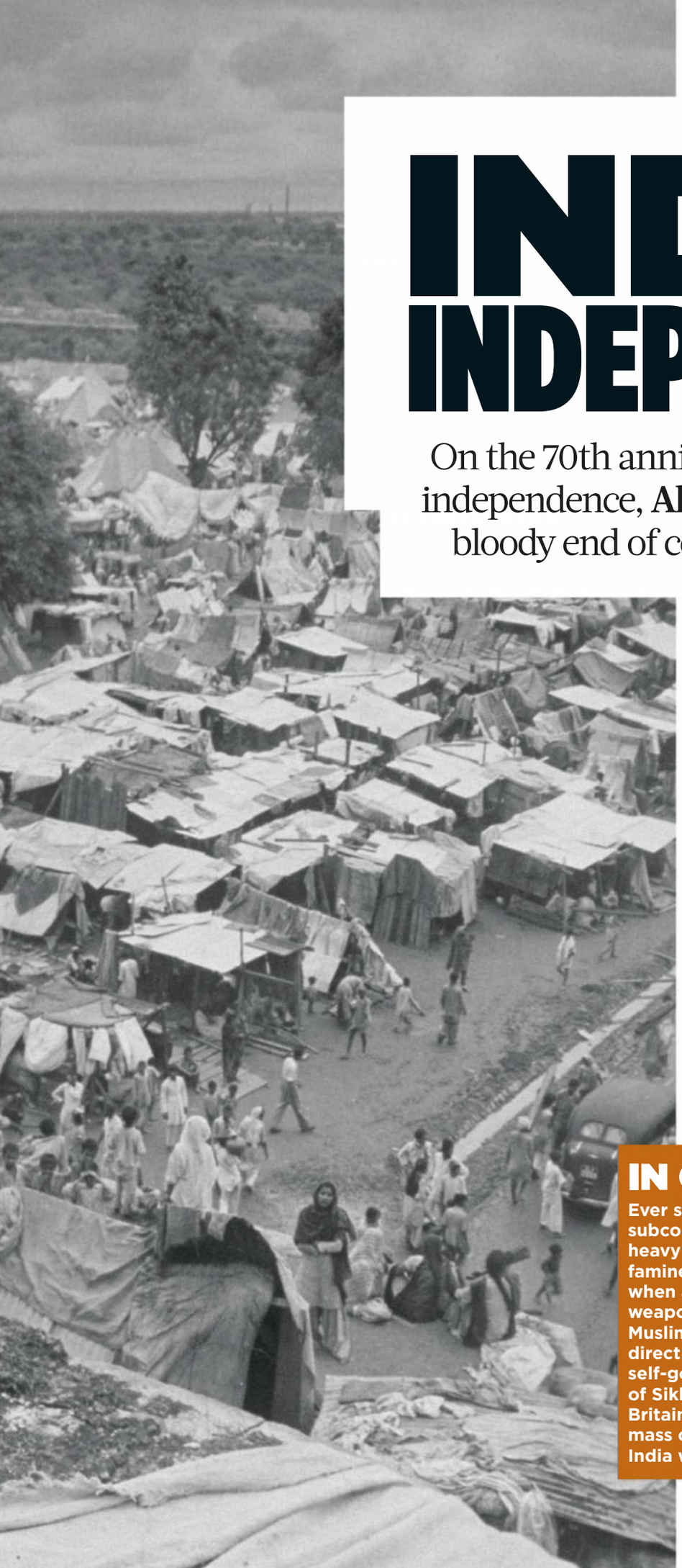
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DEVASTATED
A Muslim boy sits precariously on the walls of Purana Qila fort in New Delhi, overlooking a vast refugee camp, 1947



INDIAN INDEPENDENCE

On the 70th anniversary of Indian and Pakistani independence, **Alice Barnes-Brown** explores the bloody end of colonialism on the subcontinent

This humid August day in New Delhi was unlike any other. Crowds thronged the streets, cheering Gandhi's name while India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, made a rallying speech to his colleagues in parliament. But the path to independence had been a violent one, and the bloodshed certainly wasn't over yet.

Though British rule had been unpopular from the start, the last straw came when India was automatically drafted to fight on the side of the Allies in World War II.

There were many political organisations representing the communities of Indian religion and provinces, but two among these stood out. The party formed of prominent Hindu politicians, the Indian National Congress (led by Nehru and Gandhi) was strongly opposed to the war. Conversely, Muhammad Ali Jinnah's Muslim League supported the British in the hopes of gaining a favourable settlement once it was over.

Despite their mutual animosity, the major political groups all demanded self-government. However, none could agree on which form it would take. The INC wished for a united India, in which Indians of all faiths would live as they had done in the era before colonialism. The British strategy of 'divide and rule', however, had irreparably damaged relations between communities – especially

IN CONTEXT

Ever since the East India Company had set foot on the subcontinent in the 17th century, their rule had wrought heavy taxes, corruption, violence and devastating famines to boot. A major turning point came in 1857, when a mutiny (caused by the use of cow and pig fat in weapon cartridges, offensive to both Hindus and Muslims) led to the British government establishing direct control over India. The violence and calls for self-government only grew stronger. In 1919, a massacre of Sikhs celebrating a holy festival in Amritsar destroyed Britain's fragile reputation. Gandhi organised his first mass campaign the next year, and soon, the people of India would accept nothing short of total independence.

MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE/GETTY X1, GETTY X1

in the heterogenous regions of Punjab (home to a large percentage of Sikhs and Hindus) and Bengal.

Many Muslims were concerned that in a Hindu-majority united India, their voices would go unheard, and they would be at the mercy of a government that did not share the same religious viewpoint. Though the idea of a separate Muslim nation, 'Pakistan', had been around since the early 1930s, it had failed to attract widespread support – even from leading Muslims such as Jinnah. But as time went on, ethno-religious violence spread, and the death toll rose, making the notion more popular.

In March 1940, Jinnah convinced his party to formally adopt the Lahore Resolution – a plan to create independent states from the provinces of Punjab and Bengal. This, they believed, would help to ease the strife plaguing cities, towns and villages across the nation by giving Muslims an Islamic homeland, in which they would be the majority. Then, in 1942, Gandhi, Nehru and many INC leaders were arrested for launching the nationwide 'Quit India' civil disobedience movement. Supporters of the two-nation theory took this opportunity to spread the word to the Muslim population.

Quit India was no ordinary revolution. Based on Gandhi's spiritual beliefs in *satyagraha* (the quest for truth) and *ahimsa* (non-violence), the concept was simple: to obtain independence, true patriots must resist the British colonists by any possible means, so long as it was peaceful. This ranged from buying Indian-made clothing to making one's own salt, going on strike or even disobeying British civil laws. The movement's simplicity meant men, women and children of all ages, religions and social classes could get involved. However, it soon descended into violence, and the colonists arrested 100,000 people. By now, though, the end of British oppression was firmly in sight. People refused to give up.

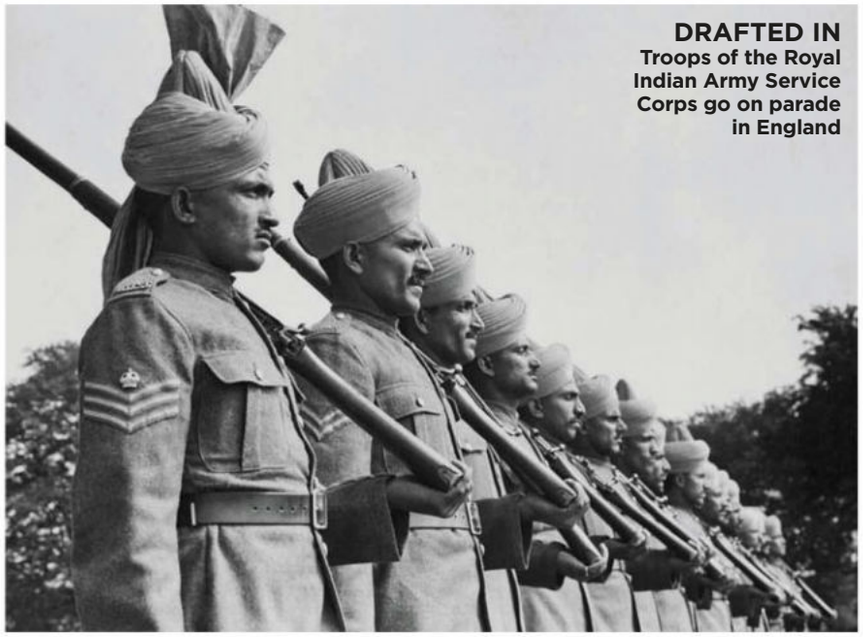
A NATION DIVIDED

Back in Britain, the heavy toll of the war meant the public was clamouring for an end to expensive imperialism. After Clement Attlee's Labour Party won the 1946 election, the new government was keen to decolonise. In early 1947, Earl Louis Mountbatten was sent in as the last viceroy of British India, and given the hefty task of arranging a hasty transfer of power to Indian representatives.

Though Gandhi and many of his supporters wanted to avoid partition, the British were all too eager to leave India for good, and saw division along religious lines as the only viable option. So keen were the Viceroy and his team to go that they brought forward the deadline for independence by ten months, leaving them only six weeks to separate a vast region with thousands of years of shared history.

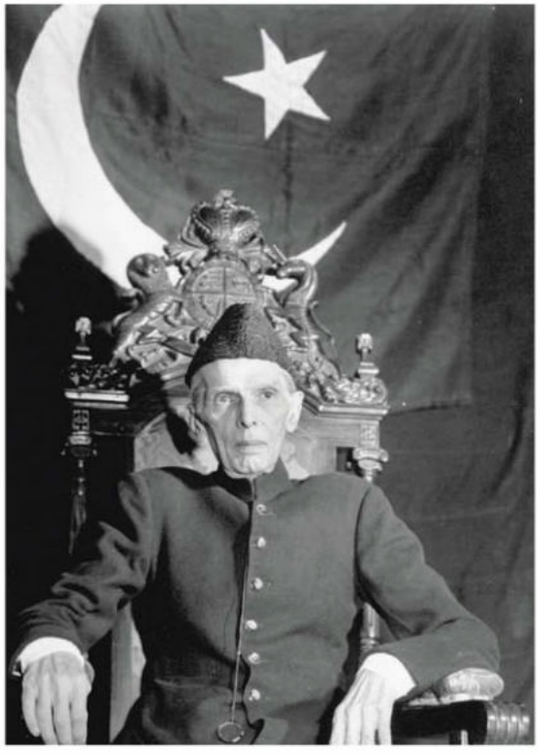
The contentious borders of India and East and West Pakistan were drawn up by lawyer Cyril Radcliffe, a man who had never set foot in India before. He did not visit the areas that would be affected by his boundaries, opting to perform a single flyover of the region instead. The lines he ended up marking left around 17 million Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs in the 'wrong' country.

With violence erupting on Independence Day itself, up to 1 million people were killed during the population exchange over the next year, even as they were attempting to flee to the safety of their respective new nations. The bloody legacy of the Partition continues to this day, with relations between South Asian countries often strained, and violence between extreme groups still plaguing the lives of countless citizens.



DRAFTED IN
Troops of the Royal Indian Army Service Corps go on parade in England





'FREE INDIA'
▲ Subhas Chandra Bose (*speaking*) was a committed nationalist, and led the revolutionary Indian National Army – a unit formed of Indian volunteers in Southeast Asia. He gained support from Nazi Germany and Japan, who wanted to undermine the British war effort.

BIRTH OF A NATION
◀ Muhammad Ali Jinnah, known in Pakistan as 'Quaid-i-Azam' ('Great Leader'), was initially a proponent of Hindu-Muslim unity. In the 1920s, he was a leading member of the Indian National Congress.

ALAMY X1, AKG IMAGES X1, MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE/GETTY X2, GETTY X2, REX/SHUTTERSTOCK X1



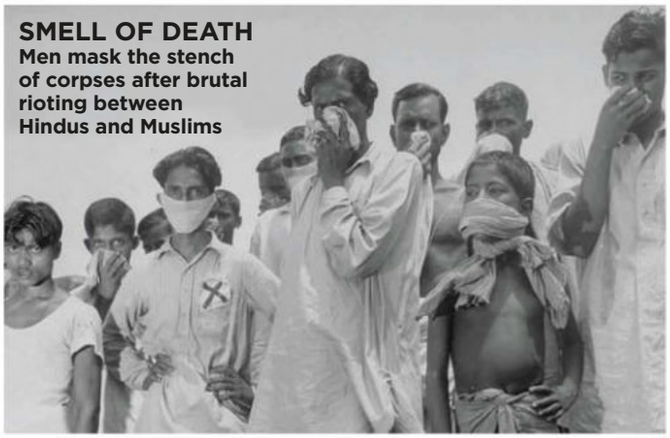
WALK FOR FREEDOM
◀ Women in Mumbai go on a march for Gandhi's *satyagraha* movement. Women played a significant role in his campaigns: after Gandhi was arrested, poet Sarojini Naidu carried on with civil disobedience.

MAPPING THE FUTURE
▼ Gandhi and Nehru on the committee of the Indian National Congress. It was at this meeting that Congress formally adopted the 'Quit India' campaign in 1942.





SMELL OF DEATH
Men mask the stench of corpses after brutal rioting between Hindus and Muslims



CITY IN RUINS
Amritsar, Punjab is gutted after a battle between its residents

"AT THE STROKE OF THE MIDNIGHT HOUR, WHEN THE WORLD SLEEPS, INDIA WILL AWAKE TO LIFE AND FREEDOM"

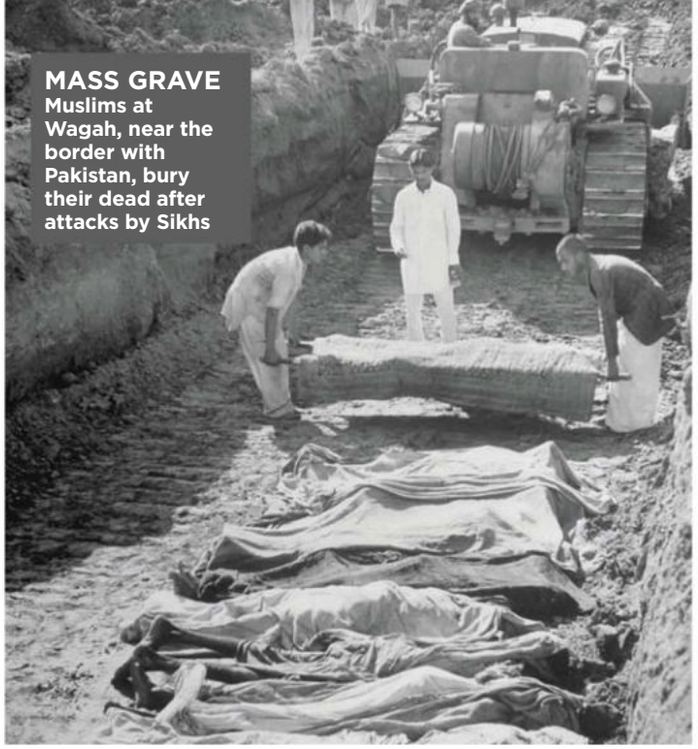
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU



IN PICTURES INDIAN INDEPENDENCE



DRAWING THE LINE
Nehru and Jinnah are informed of Britain's decision to divide India by Mountbatten, seated centre



MASS GRAVE
Muslims at Wagah, near the border with Pakistan, bury their dead after attacks by Sikhs



MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE/GETTY X4, GETTY X2, ALAMY X1

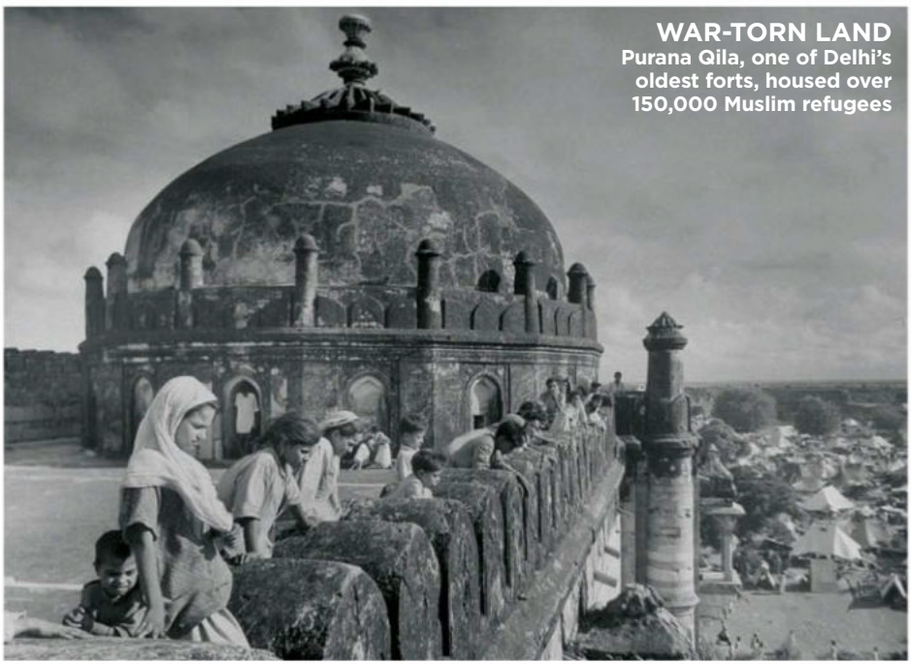


A DAY TO REMEMBER
▲ In Calcutta, crowds take to the streets, and wave the Indian flag to celebrate their long-awaited freedom from British colonialism

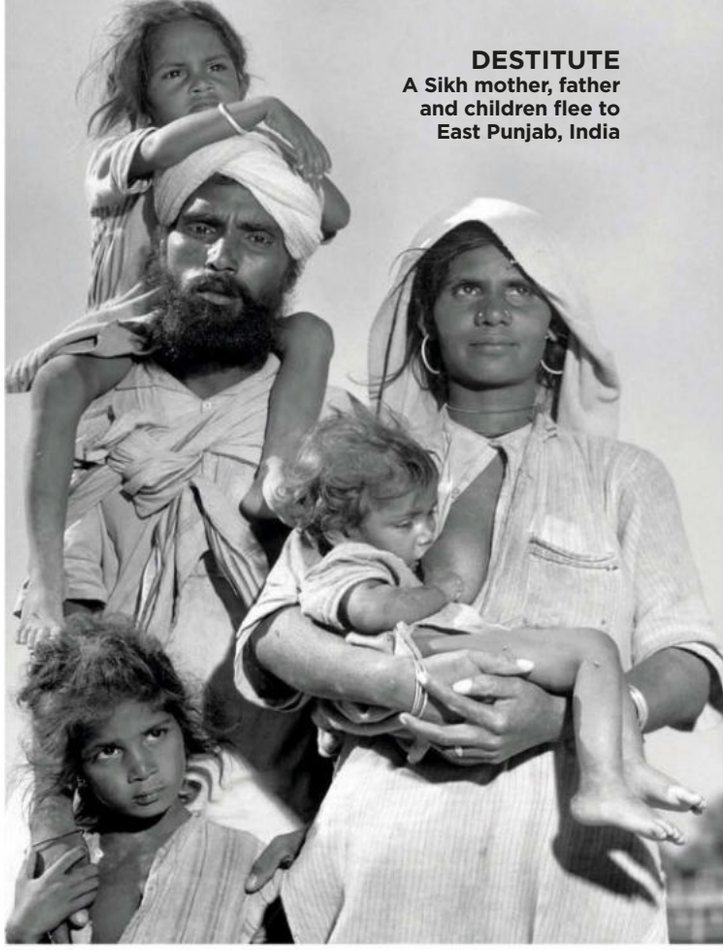
CAUSE FOR CONCERN
◀ India was divided into East Pakistan (what is now Bangladesh) and West Pakistan (modern-day Pakistan). This was based on religious affiliation, but the two parts were very dissimilar



SEEKING REFUGE
Sikhs migrate into the Indian part of Punjab, their province split down the middle



WAR-TORN LAND
Purana Qila, one of Delhi's oldest forts, housed over 150,000 Muslim refugees

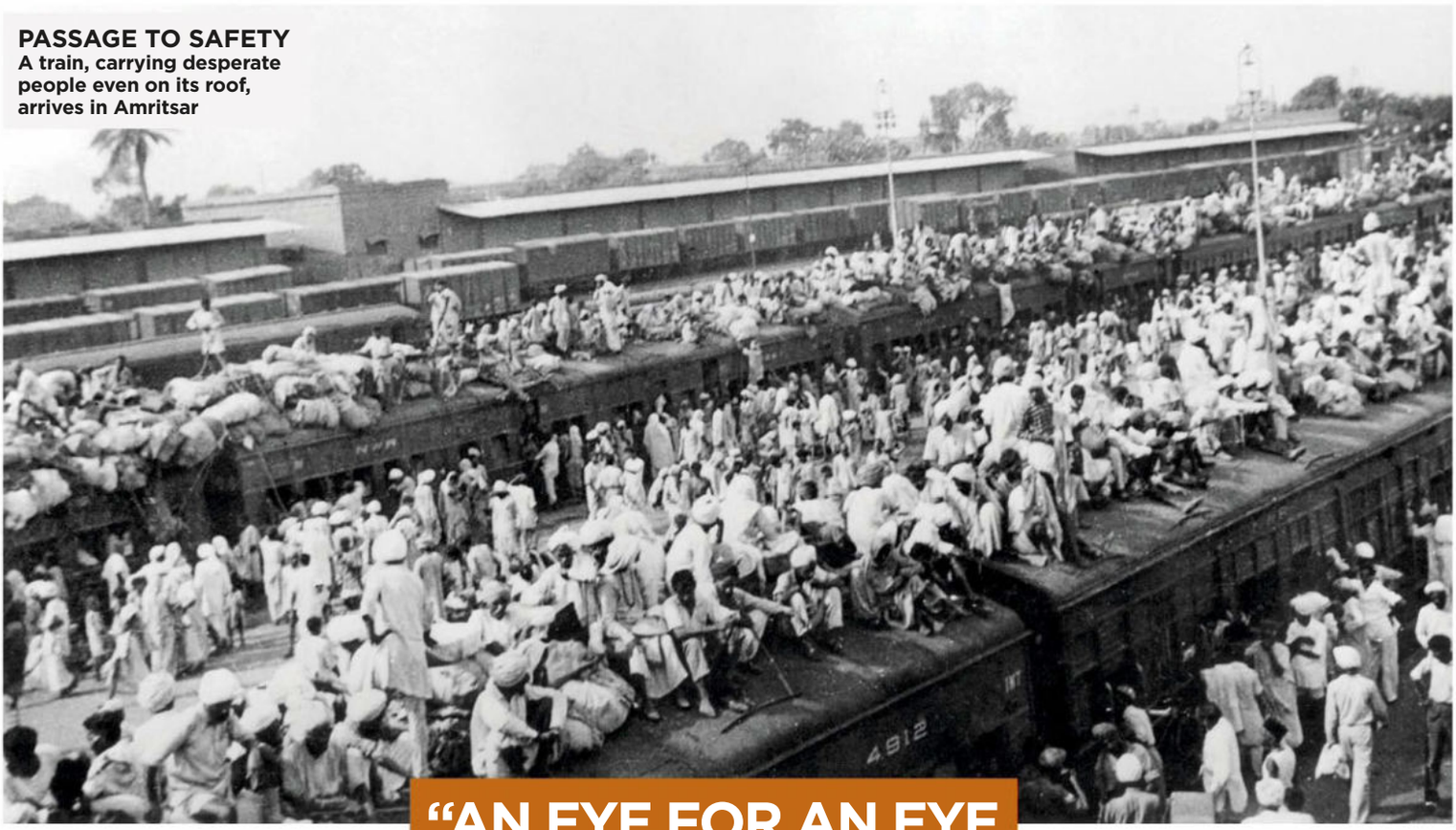


DESTITUTE
A Sikh mother, father and children flee to East Punjab, India

"WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF UNPARALLELED DIFFICULTIES AND UNTOLD SUFFERINGS"

MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

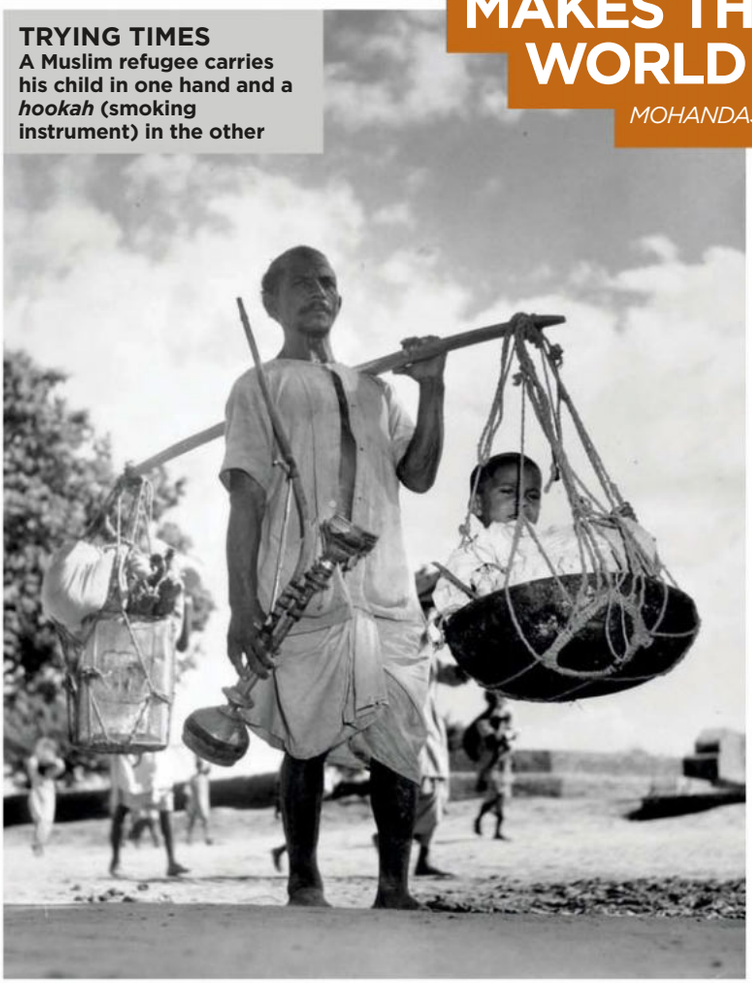
PASSAGE TO SAFETY
A train, carrying desperate people even on its roof, arrives in Amritsar



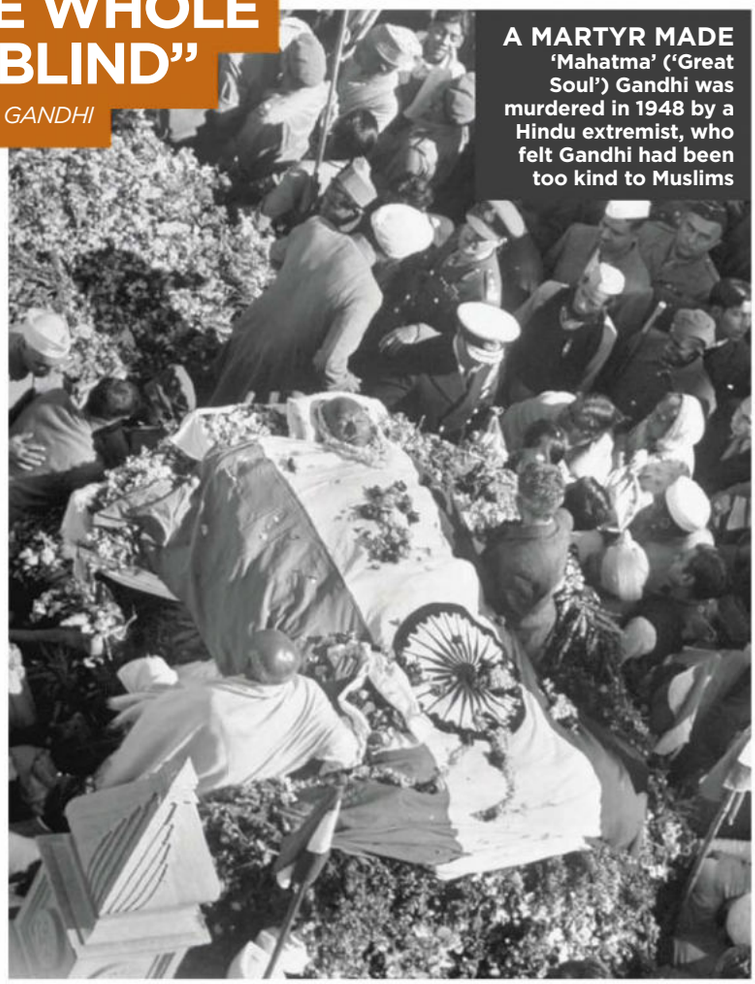
"AN EYE FOR AN EYE MAKES THE WHOLE WORLD BLIND"

MOHANDAS GANDHI

TRYING TIMES
A Muslim refugee carries his child in one hand and a *hookah* (smoking instrument) in the other



A MARTYR MADE
'Mahatma' ('Great Soul') Gandhi was murdered in 1948 by a Hindu extremist, who felt Gandhi had been too kind to Muslims



MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE/GETTY X2, TOPFOTO X1

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Yasuko Fujino, *In the Garden* (detail)
Silk, metal thread, mohair, 250 × 410cm © Yasuko Fujino

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Q&A
YOU ASK, WE ANSWER

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• **WHY DO WE SAY...** p78 • **WHAT IS IT?** p83

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EMILY BRAND
Social historian, genealogist and author of *Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship* (2013)



JULIAN HUMPHRYS
Development Officer for The Battlefields Trust and author



ADAM JACOT DE BOINOD
Author and journalist, worked on series one of the BBC panel game *QI*



SANDRA LAWRENCE
Writer and columnist with a specialist interest in British heritage subjects



RUPERT MATTHEWS
Author on a range of historical subjects, from ancient to modern



MILES RUSSELL
Author and senior lecturer in prehistoric and Roman archaeology at Bournemouth University



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RISING TIDE
In Christianity's telling of the Great Flood, Noah's famous ark takes centre stage

DID YOU KNOW?

HIGH-WATER MARK
The worst series of floods in recorded history were the Yellow River Floods that affected China in 1931, purposely created to halt the invading Japanese forces.

Was there really a 'Great Flood'?

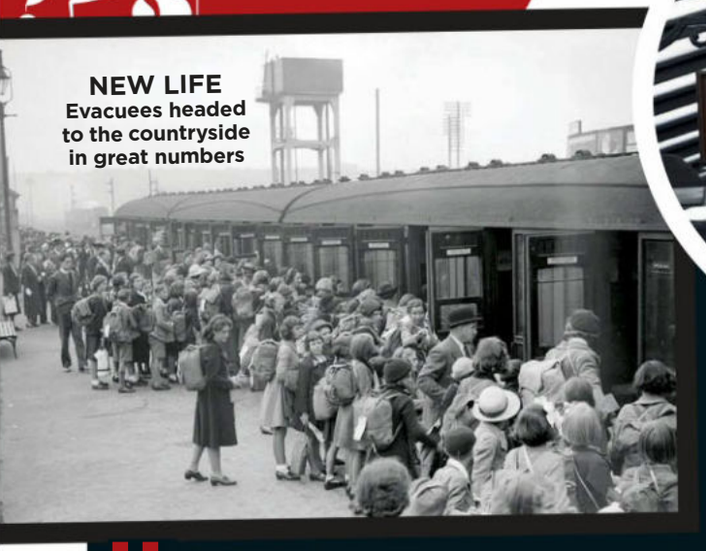
The myth of a devastating flood sent by a deity to cleanse the world of sin is a widespread one. It is famously found in the Bible, but also in ancient Mesopotamia and Greece, medieval India, among the Maya, in North America and in Cornwall. The details vary, but in each a vast area of fertile farmland is destroyed by a huge flood sent by a god, or gods.

The fact that so many cultures have a myth about a flood has led some historians to wonder if there may have been a real event that explains the myths. We know that 18,000 years ago the world's sea levels were about 120m lower than today due to the amount of ice trapped in glaciers. When the Ice Age ended, the glaciers melted and seas rose over a 10,000-year period to modern levels. Vast areas of land that had been inhabited by humans disappeared under the waves. However, an event that took place more than 8,000 years ago seems too remote to most historians to have been remembered in a pre-literate society.

Another idea is that the flood myths were inspired by the discovery of fossilised shellfish and other marine animals in rocks high in the mountains. The Ancient Greeks certainly thought that this 'proved' that the seas had once been much higher than today, though we now know that it is the rocks that have moved not the sea level.

So although a mighty flood did take place and huge swathes of land were lost to the seas, it is unlikely that a Great Flood occurred as described in the myths. **RM**

GETTY



NEW LIFE
Evacuees headed to the countryside in great numbers

How many civilians were evacuated during World War II?

With the outbreak of World War II, long-established plans for the evacuation of Britain's most vulnerable civilians to rural areas – dubbed 'Operation Pied Piper' – were quickly put into effect. As part of an official scheme, children, mothers with infants, and the infirm were to be transported to relative safety from cities likely to be targeted by German bombs.

The first major wave began shortly before the official declaration of war, over a period of three days from 1 September, during which around 1.5 million were evacuated from major cities such as London, Birmingham and Glasgow. In England, this included 673,000 schoolchildren separated from their families and put into the care of temporary guardians. With the escalation of bombing in summer 1940 and the growing threat of invasion in the south, evacuation was remobilised until the end of 1941, by which time a further 200,000 children had been moved to safer areas. An estimated further one million were relocated during the final major evacuation, in late summer of 1944. Overall, around 15,000 children were sent abroad. **EB**



BOX CLEVER
How theatre takings would have originally been collected in Elizabethan times



Why do we call a theatre cash-desk a box office?

Back in Shakespeare's day, the most secure way of keeping theatre accounts was in a sealed ceramic money box, a bit like a child's piggy bank today. The cash would go into the pot, which was then taken to the proprietor's office, smashed, and the takings for that performance counted. The remains of several such boxes have been recovered during archaeological digs, the most recent being at the Curtain Theatre in Shoreditch in east London, where Shakespeare himself is known to have performed. **SL**

WHY DO WE SAY "RAGTAG AND BOBTAIL"?

Meaning a group of people regarded as coming from the lowest of classes, the phrase 'rag and tag' was common from the 16th century with rags being 'tattered clothing' and a bobtail the tail of a horse which was cut short. Variations of the phrase were used by both Shakespeare and Pepys. AJ

DID BRITAIN HAVE NAMES FOR THE DAYS OF THE WEEK AND MONTHS OF THE YEAR BEFORE ROMAN TIMES?

The Roman system of seven-day weeks, each day named after the planets as they were then understood (hence Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus and Saturn), was introduced to Britain in the early 1st century AD. It was maintained well into the post-Roman period, when certain key names were replace with those of Germanic deities, hence Tiw's day, Woden's day, Thor's day and Fríge's day. Unfortunately, as the prehistoric Britons did not record anything in writing prior to the Roman arrival, we have no idea how they named specific days nor how they ordered the calendar. **MR**



WHAT CONNECTS... THE BATTLE OF CRÉCY AND THE ACTRESS GRACE KELLY?



1 The 1346 battle of Crécy began with the defeat by English archers of Genoese crossbowmen co-commanded by Otto Doria and Carlo Grimaldi.

2 Grimaldi's family had long associations with Monaco. In 1419, they secured its control by purchasing it from the kingdom of Aragon.

3 The Grimaldis became hereditary rulers of Monaco and, in 1612, Honoré II became the first to adopt the title of prince.

4 In 1949, Rainier III succeeded as prince and seven years later, on April 19, 1956, he famously married the US actress Grace Kelly.

ALAMY X3, BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X1, GETTY X6

IN A NUTSHELL

NEW ZEALAND WARS

Lottie Goldfinch explains a pivotal conflict that deeply affected the Māori



ALL GUNS BLAZING The superiority of the British weaponry defeated the Māori

74

The percentage of the current New Zealand population who identify themselves as New Zealand European. Māoris stand at 14.9 per cent.

What were the New Zealand Wars and when were they?

Taking place between 1845 and 1872, the New Zealand Wars – also known as the Māori wars – were a series of armed conflicts between the government of New Zealand and the Māori.

How did Britain come to colonise New Zealand?

The early 19th century – between the 1840s and the 1860s in particular – saw tens of thousands of migrants settling in New Zealand, transforming the landscape of the country, with the acquisition of large quantities of Maori land and the arrival of new cities and towns.

European contact with the Maori was not a 19th-century phenomenon, though - Captain Cook and French explorer Jean-François-Marie de Surville visited the islands in 1769. But prior to 1840, European migration had been small, with little impact on the native Maori, who were initially keen to engage in trade.

Although Britain was initially reluctant to commit to the expense of colonisation, in 1835 the Declaration of the Independence of New Zealand was established, in which 34 northern chiefs called upon William IV to become their 'parent and protector'. And in 1839, William Hobson was appointed as consul to New Zealand, with the task of obtaining sovereignty over all or part of New Zealand.

> "The British and Māori interpretations of the Treaty of Waitangi differed greatly"

Didn't the Treaty of Waitangi protect the Maori?

Regarded as New Zealand's founding document, the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840 by representatives of the British Crown and Māori chiefs from the North Island of New Zealand. In it, a British governor of New Zealand was established, but Māori ownership of their lands, fisheries, forests and other properties was recognised and they were awarded the same rights as British subjects. In return, the Māori people ceded New Zealand to Britain, giving Queen Victoria and her government the sole right to purchase land.

But British and Māori interpretation of the treaty differed greatly. Britain believed it gave them sovereignty over New Zealand and the right to govern, while the Māori believed they had given up the right of governance in return for protection, without giving up their authority to manage their own affairs.



DOTTED LINE Māori chiefs handed over power when they signed the Treaty of Waitangi.

How did conflict finally break out?

The first armed conflict between the Māori and the European settlers occurred in June 1843 in the northern part of the South Island, when the English-run New Zealand Company – responsible for colonising much of the country – attempted to clear Māori off land that they wished to survey. The episode became known as the Wairau Affray and saw some 22 Europeans killed, alongside between four and six Maori. A year or so later, in March 1845, another rebellion broke out in and around the Bay of Islands, when Ngāpuhi chief Hōne Heke cut down the British flag as a direct challenge to British control. The ensuing Flagstaff War lasted nearly a year. Both sides claimed victory.

What happened next?

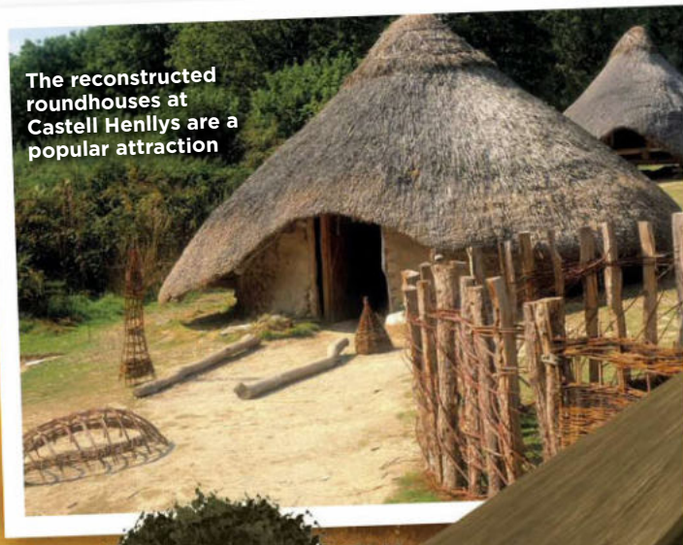
A new constitution was introduced in 1852, with New Zealand's first Parliament meeting in 1854. Men who owned or rented individual property were given a vote but, due to their communal possession of land, almost all Maori were excluded. Four Maori parliamentary seats were created in 1867, but these were very much the minority.

How did the Maori fight back?

In 1858, the Kīngitanga (Māori King movement) was formed with the aim of uniting Māori under a single sovereign, much like Britain under Queen Victoria. Famed Waikato chief Pōtatau Te Wherowhero was finally crowned as the first Maori king. The colonial government, however, viewed the Kīngitanga as an anti-land-selling league and a threat to the Crown. More fighting broke out over British attempts to purchase land.

How did the wars end?

Over the next 12 years, a series of armed conflicts took place between the British and Maori, peaking in the 1860s when around 18,000 British troops, supported by artillery, cavalry and local militia, battled some 4,000 Māori warriors in an attempt to destroy the Kīngitanga stronghold in Waikato. But by 1872, the sheer weight of British numbers combined with their superior military and economic power had prevailed and the Māori had been pushed out to the fringes of the country.


The reconstructed roundhouses at Castell Henllys are a popular attraction

HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

IRON AGE HILL FORT

The Celtic tribes of Northern Europe had a real knack for construction and feng shui

Ancient hill forts, such as Maiden Castle, are scattered all across the British countryside. Built from the first century BC right through to the end of Roman Britain, the early inhabitants took advantage of strategic high ground, and built these settlements on top of large hills. The natural fortifications protected villagers from marauding invaders, such as the Romans, and the huts inside contained all they would need if ever they came under siege. Each house was occupied by a single family unit, with many generations living under one roof.

CITY WALLS

The hill forts were surrounded by a stone exterior wall. This protected them against strong winds, invaders, and also marked the perimeters of the settlement. Within the walls, however the settlement was much more than a military camp. It was a centre of tribal politics, religious ritual and everyday life.

STAYING DRY
The roofs were made of dry mud, covered with straw to keep the warmth inside.

STICKS AND STONES
Since wood and rock were key building materials, a supply was kept on site for maintenance and repairs

THE HEARTH
The fire, which was used for cooking, warmth and light, was the heart of the house

FRESH WATER
Drinking water was collected in wells and cisterns, designed to catch rainfall.

DAILY BREAD
Later occupants used outdoor, enclosed wood-fired ovens to bake their bread in.

ILLUSTRATION: SOL 90 IMAGES, ALAMY X3



FIRE ESCAPE
Smoke would get out through the thatch, leaving a sticky tar residue that helped preserve the roof.

THATCHING
This close-up of a thatched roof shows the reeds that were used to make it

GRUB'S UP
Meals were very simple. Scientists found the Tollund Man (circa third century BC) ate a concoction of barley, rye and oats.

ALL AND SUNDRY
Though roundhouses were comfortable family homes, farm animals were kept inside when it was cold.

FLOOR PLAN

Every house was unique, but each had a similar layout. The bedrooms were at the edge of the house for privacy, but the hubbub centred around the fire

WE ATE WHAT?!

OVERCOOKED VEG

Historically, vegetables have been treated with deep suspicion. In medieval and early-modern times, vegetables were for animals and paupers. Some were considered poisonous, and no one ate them raw. One early cookbook, the *Boke of Kervynge* from 1500, is quite clear: "Beware of green sallettes and rawe fruytes" it warns, "for they wyll make your soverayne seke" (they will make your master sick).

The longer the veg was cooked, the healthier it was. Cooking times reached their zenith with the Victorians. Mrs Beeton, writing in 1857, advocates up to 2¼ hours for carrots (albeit large ones). *London & Suburbs Old and New Useful Knowledge for Health and Home*, from 1934, suggests 15–20 minutes' boiling for Brussels sprouts, 20–25 minutes for spinach, 40–45 minutes for leeks and anything up to an hour for cabbage. Even well into the latter part of the 20th century, school dinners were blamed for turning off a generation of vegetable eaters through over-boiling. **SL**

DID YOU KNOW?

HOME GROWN

It wasn't until the 15th century that the word 'vegetable' was first recorded in English. At the time, it referred to all plants, not just those cultivated.



ILLUSTRATION: JONTY CLARK, ALAMY X1, GETTY X5



ON THE TILES
The mosaic at Hinton St Mary in Dorset

When did Christianity first arrive in Britain?

History records that the English Church was founded by St Augustine, who led a Vatican-sponsored mission to Britain in AD 597 to Christianise the kingdom of Kent. As a religion, however, Christianity had been present in the British Isles for at least three centuries before, as evidenced by Patrick and David (the patron saints of Ireland and Wales who lived in the late 5th and early 6th century), and Alban, martyred for his beliefs during the third century.

Archaeology has also demonstrated a small but significant presence in Roman Britain, one confirmed by Christian motifs scratched on metal objects, painted on wall plaster and prominently displayed in floors. An example of the latter is the portrait of a man in a mosaic from the 4th-century villa at Hinton St Mary in Dorset, one of the earliest depictions of Christ known from anywhere within the Roman Empire. **MR**

6,000

The approximate number of trees required to build Lord Nelson's ship HMS *Victory*. Most were oak.

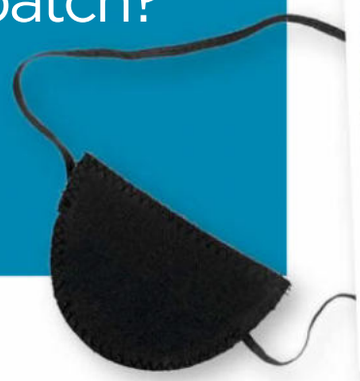
MYTH BUSTING



I SEE NO PATCH
Lord Nelson, correctly pictured without accessory

Over which of his eyes did Lord Nelson wear a patch?

Neither. In 1794, Horatio Nelson was fighting on land near Calvi on the island of Corsica when he was hit in the face by some gravel that had been thrown up by a French cannonball and lost almost all the sight in his right eye. But, despite this, the eye itself appeared completely undamaged – and because there was no disfigurement to hide Nelson had no need to cover it with a patch. **JH**



HIDDEN HISTORICALS

CAN YOU WORK OUT WHO IS HIDDEN IN THE SYMBOLS?

Unlikely as it sounds, this leader was actually a qualified bricklayer



Why do **tennis players wear white** at Wimbledon?

As the world's oldest tennis tournament, Wimbledon is awash with long-standing traditions – not least of which is its dress code. This specifies that players must dress in all white, or predominantly white, attire. When the dress code was written in the genteel 1880s, sweat stains were considered improper and unsightly. It was decided that white should be worn to minimise the visibility of any unseemly damp patches, as sweat is more apparent on colourful clothing. From that period on, 'tennis whites' were considered the standard outfit for well-heeled tennis players and have since been a rule that tradition-loving Wimbledon is loath to change. **SL**



ALL WHITE NOW
The super-smart Renshaw brothers dominated Wimbledon in the 1880s

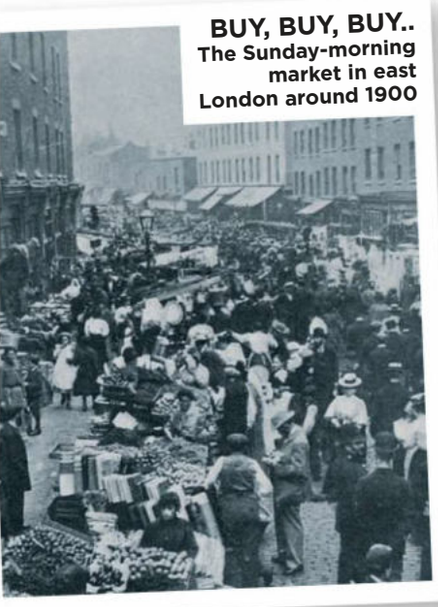
WHAT IS IT?

PERHAPS THIS MYSTERIOUS OBJECT COULD BE WORN... BUT BY WHOM?

SEE ANSWERS BELOW



Why do we call the famous **London street market** 'Petticoat Lane?'



BUY, BUY, BUY..
The Sunday-morning market in east London around 1900

Because, in Tudor times, Hogs Lane was just outside London's walls, it didn't come under the rules and regulations of the City. A thriving second-hand clothes and bric-a-brac market subsequently grew up around it and, by 1608, it had already become known as 'Peticote Lane'.

With the arrival of French Hugenots who were fleeing persecution in their own country, the area became known for textiles and, over time, the clothing industry. For a while in the mid-18th century, it was quite a high-class district, dealing in Spitalfields silk.

The name was changed to Middlesex Street, and the area expanded to Wentworth Street and beyond, but no one actually used the official titles, especially as, when cheap imported fabrics sucked the profit out of the English silk industry, the area became poorer.

The market gained a reputation for cheerful lawlessness, a popular legend suggesting that stallholders would steal your petticoat at one end of the street and sell it back to you at the other. The market has, thankfully, cleaned up its act, and is still as popular as ever. **SL**

NOW SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS

Gobmsacked by the truth about Nelson's eyesight? Stunned by the extent of wartime evacuation? Send us your comments!

@Historyrevmag#askhistrevmag
www.facebook.com/HistoryRevealed
editor@historyrevealed.com

Answers: Hidden Historicals Win Stone Church Hill (Winston Churchill) **What is it?** This is the Golden Hat of Schifferstadt, a piece of Bronze Age headwear likely to have been worn by priests.

Want to enjoy more history? Our monthly guide to activities and resources is a great place to start

HERE & NOW

BRITAIN'S TREASURES p86 • **BOOKS** p88

ON OUR RADAR

What's caught our attention this month...

MAIL RAIL AT THE POSTAL MUSEUM/MILES WILLIS X1. NATIONAL ARCHIVES X1. VISITLANCASHIRE.COM X2

EVENT

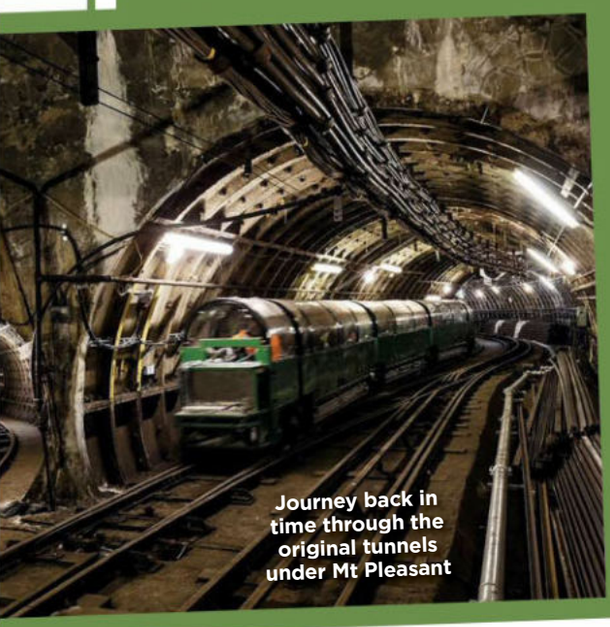
Lytham 1940s Wartime Weekend

Lytham, Lancashire, 19-20 August
www.bit.ly/2rU7f24

Head to Lytham as it turns back the clock 70 years for its Wartime Weekend, featuring live entertainment and plenty of have-a-go fun. The living-history camp will boast battle re-enactments, music and dance performances, educational talks, demonstrations, historic vehicles and memorabilia stalls. Why not join the Home Guard or pick up some war gardening tips? Forties-style fancy dress is encouraged!



Whether it's dancing shoes or combat boots you'll be wearing, there's something for everyone at the Lytham 1940s weekend



Journey back in time through the original tunnels under Mt Pleasant

MUSEUM

Opening of the Postal Museum

Phoenix Place, London, opens 28 July
www.bit.ly/2rL7xq1

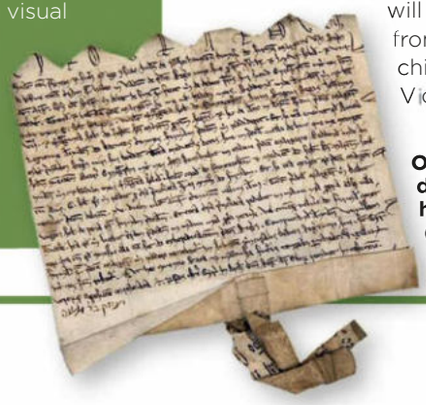
London's most anticipated new heritage attraction, the Postal Museum, presents five centuries of history. Board the Mail Rail and travel through an unseen, subterranean world, complete with audio and visual displays. Suitable for all the family, the museum features 'Sorted!' – an interactive children's play zone – along with galleries that offer a new perceptive on significant historical events.

TALK

The National Archives Summer Lecture Series

The National Archives, Kew Gardens, 2-30 August http://bit.ly/2sS17EU

Join The National Archives for their free lecture series, every Wednesday in August. This year, the theme is 'Secrets and lies: Suppression, distortion and fiction in past societies'. A range of historical topics will be discussed, from medieval child murder to Victorian welfare.



Original documents will help tell the (sometimes grisly) tales



Grab a pike and pick a side for a British Civil Wars re-enactment

EVENT

Cannock Chase Military History Weekend

Cannock Chase Visitor Centre, Hednesford, 19-20 August
www.bit.ly/2sS5gZs

Now returning for its seventh year, this popular event has everything from Anglo-Saxon music right through to displays by our current armed forces. Take the opportunity to speak to veterans, re-enactment groups and experts.

TO BUY

Van Gogh's Sunflowers Deckchair

£99, The National Gallery Shop
www.bit.ly/2r1ANeR

Relax in the sun with this Vincent Van Gogh deckchair featuring his famous painting, *Sunflowers*. The chair has been created for the National Gallery shop and would make a great addition to any garden this summer.



Be the envy of the beach with this stylish deckchair



The death of Princess Diana triggered worldwide mourning

DOCUMENTARY

Diana

BBC 1, August, date TBC ***www.bit.ly/2qVKXK4***

Remember Diana, Princess of Wales, on the 20th anniversary of her death with this moving documentary, following the events immediately after the 1997 Paris car crash. The princes, William and Harry, speak for the first time about the impact of losing their mother at such a young age.

EVENT

Grand Medieval Mêlée

Cardiff Castle, 19-20 August
http://bit.ly/2sS9ZKF

During this fabulous family weekend in Cardiff, you are invited to travel back in time to a medieval encampment. Experience all the sights and sounds of the Middle Ages, try your hand at archery, and enjoy the many displays, music performances, games and falconry demonstrations. Plus, there's a chance to learn about everything from clothing to craft and swordplay.



Cardiff Castle provides a dramatic backdrop for the event

CARDIFF COUNCIL X1, BBC/PA IMAGES X1

ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- **Victorian Seaside Fun – Enjoy a traditional show of Punch and Judy, Victorian games and local ice cream. Osborne, Isle of Wight, 1-31 August 2017** ***www.bit.ly/2rL7xWX***
- **Domesday Book – Last chance to view it in a castle built by the same king who ordered its creation. Lincoln Castle, 27 May – 3 September 2017** ***www.bit.ly/2r5dLPj***

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL X1,

TWIN TOWERS
Although known across the entire world as Westminster Abbey, its formal name is actually the **Collegiate Church of St Peter, Westminster**.

MAIN ATTRACTION
Nearly two million sightseers paid Westminster Abbey a visit in 2016



BRITAIN'S TREASURES...

WESTMINSTER ABBEY Central London

Arguably **the world's most famous abbey**, Westminster houses a wealth of treasures from across the centuries, as well as being the resting place of the great and good

GETTING THERE:
Westminster Abbey is located just across the road from the Houses of Parliament. The nearest tube stations are Westminster and St James's Park. Can get very busy.



TIMES AND PRICES:
9.30am – 4.30pm, but times vary. Adults £22 (£20 online), children £9 (under fives free), family £40-£45.

FIND OUT MORE:
Call 020 7222 5152 or visit *westminster-abbey.org*

In the heart of Westminster Abbey, behind the High Altar in its own candlelit chapel, stands the shrine of St Edward the Confessor, the abbey's founder. He shares his stone chamber with five kings and four queens, including Henry III, Edward I, Richard II and Henry V.

The architectural wonder that is Westminster Abbey – the final destination for royalty, statesmen, poets, scientists, warriors and musicians – holds the stories of centuries within its walls. The building, where 3,300 people are buried or commemorated, is an awe-inspiring celebration of what architects, masons and craftsmen from the Romanesque, Gothic and Early Renaissance periods were able to achieve by working Purbeck marble and Portland stone with their hammers and chisels.

It all began in the 1040s when King Edward established his royal palace by the banks of the River Thames. Close by was a small Benedictine monastery, set up by St Dunstan, the Bishop of London, in 960, which Edward decided to upscale. He built a big stone church in honour of St Peter the Apostle, which became known as the 'west minster' to distinguish it from St Paul's Cathedral (the east minster). The new church was consecrated in 1065, but the King was too ill to attend the ceremony, dying just days later. His burial procession, which is depicted on the Bayeux Tapestry, transported his remains to be entombed in the just-completed abbey.

A year later, on Christmas Day 1066, the Abbey was the location of one of the most significant ceremonies of the period – the

ALAMY X1, GETTY X6, REX/SHUTTERSTOCK X1



The undisputed splendour of Henry VII's chapel, added to the abbey in the 1500s

WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



1 POET'S CORNER
More than 100 writers are buried or commemorated here, including Chaucer, Hardy, Dickens and Ben Jonson – the only person in the abbey to be buried upright.



2 THE CORONATION CHAIR
in 1300, King Edward I had a magnificent oaken chair made, which has been used in all 38 coronation ceremonies held at the abbey since 1308.



3 ST FAITH WALL PAINTINGS
Its most important wall paintings are of St Faith in her chapel and the figures of Christ with St Thomas and St Christopher, which have survived since the 13th century.



4 COSMATI PAVEMENT
The pavement of intricately inlayed stone in front of the High Altar was laid down in 1268. It's known as Cosmati work after the Italian family who developed this technique.



5 TOMB OF ELIZABETH I
In 1603, Elizabeth I was buried in the vault of her grandfather Henry VII, but was later laid on top of the coffin of her half-sister Mary I in 1606.



6 THE UK'S OLDEST DOOR
The oak door that opens into the Chapter House was installed in the 1050s and was thought to be covered in human skin until tests showed it was cowhide.

"The abbey holds the stories of centuries within its walls"

coronation of William the Conqueror. Every coronation since has taken place here, as well as 16 royal weddings.

ELEVATED STATUS

Edward's abbey survived for 200 years until the middle of the 13th century, when Henry III decided it should be rebuilt in the new Gothic style. Henry also deemed that the building's status should be elevated so it was not only a great monastery, but also a place for the burial of monarchs. He selected his own final resting place under the highest Gothic nave in England.

In the 1500s, the first Tudor monarch, Henry VII, added the Lady Chapel, with its spectacular fan-vaulted roof. Below the magnificent ceiling lie the marble tombs of Henry and his wife, Elizabeth of York. They were carved by the Italian sculptor Pietro Torrigiano, a Florentine classmate of Michelangelo.

The abbey survived the dissolution of the monasteries after Henry VIII assumed direct royal control of it in 1539. He spared the building from destruction by granting it the status of a cathedral by charter – quite possibly because so many of his ancestors, including his father, were buried there.

Under the Catholic Mary I of England, the abbey was restored to the Benedictines, until they were again ejected by Elizabeth I in 1559. A year later, Elizabeth put an end to the tussle by establishing Westminster as a 'Royal Peculiar' – a church that belongs directly to the monarch and not to any diocese, and does not come under the jurisdiction of a bishop.

The abbey's story continues to evolve. In 2015, planning permission was granted to construct the first new tower since Nicholas Hawksmoor completed the twin towers (left unfinished from medieval times) in 1745. This tower will lead to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries, due for completion in 2018. The gallery, hidden to the public for more than 700 years, runs 70 feet above the abbey floor. Once opened, this space will give visitors magnificent views to the Palace of Westminster and into the church, displaying treasures and collections reflecting the Abbey's rich and varied 1,000-year history.

WHY NOT VISIT...

London has a plethora of significant religious buildings...

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

The present cathedral, the masterpiece of architect Sir Christopher Wren, was built between 1675 and 1710, after its predecessor was destroyed in the Great Fire of London.
stpauls.co.uk

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

The oldest building in Southwark and the burial place of William Shakespeare's brother Edmund.
cathedral.southwark.anglican.org

ST MARY-LE-BOW, CHEAPSIDE

This church used to house the Great Bell of Bow, famous from the nursery rhyme *Oranges and Lemons*. Anyone born within the sounds of the Bow Bells is said to be a true cockney.
stmarylebow.co.uk

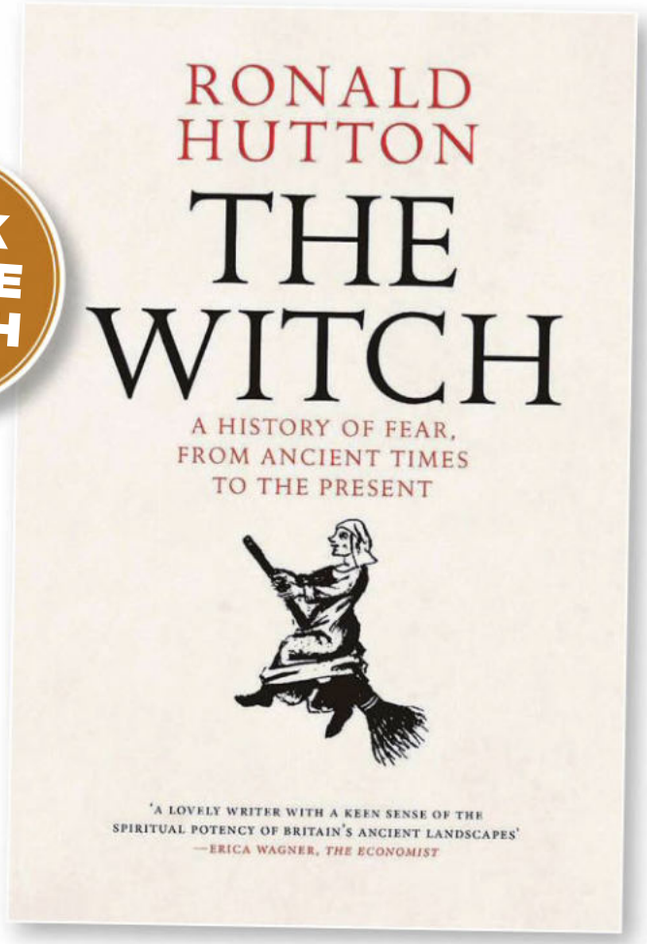
BOOK REVIEWS

This month's best historical books

The Witch: A History of Fear, from Ancient Times to the Present

By Ronald Hutton
Yale, £25, 376 pages, hardback

BOOK OF THE MONTH



There are several over-familiar images that we jump to when we think of witches, even today: the hat, the broom, the cauldron. Yet this scholarly, engrossing take on the 'witch' travels across centuries and continents to prove that it is a figure that is both more pervasive and more diverse than we might expect. The subtitle of Ronald Hutton's book is also important, as he considers the ways in which a fear of witches has led to bigotry and, worse, violence against some members of societies around the world right up to the present day.

"Across the world, witches have been regarded with loathing and horror, and associated with evil forces in the supernatural world"





ABOVE: **A woman accused of witchcraft is subjected to an 'ordeal by water', 1600s**
RIGHT: **A Northern Siberian shaman, believed by many people of the region to have access to the spiritual world**

MEET THE AUTHOR

Far from being a problem of the past, accusations of witchcraft remain rife in many parts of the world. The University of Bristol professor **Ronald Hutton** explains what he hopes his latest book will achieve

Why is it important to tell the story of the 'witch' in such a broad context?
A global context for witch-hunting reveals that it has carried on in every inhabited continent of the world, but not among every people. However, the majority of humans have traditionally feared witchcraft, and that fear is still a major problem, leading to murder, persecutions and trials in the developing world even today. This book is intended partly to draw attention to that problem and argue that the slow, hard process of educating people out of the fear is the only ultimate solution.

What were the key factors in how the witch became such a feared figure across the continent?
Witches were feared in Europe from ancient times, but in the 15th century this fear underwent a globally unique transformation: to regard witches as members of a satanic anti-religion. This produced the upsurge of witch-hunting that characterised Early Modern Europe, but it also shocked Europeans into a second unique characteristic: of being the only peoples to have feared witchcraft officially to lose that fear.

Are there any specific characters or stories that particularly stand out for you from your research?
Two glamorous superhuman female figures: the British fairy queen and, in Europe, the leaders of nocturnal cavalcades of spirits. Both seem to have developed in the course of the Middle Ages, rather than being direct survivals from the ancient world.

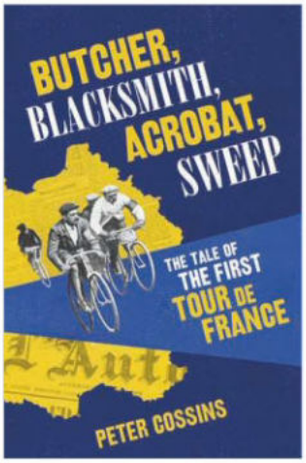
People tend to have a fairly specific view of witchcraft. How would you like your book to change this?
I would like my book to help people to understand why and how the fear of witches has arisen and been sustained, and how to confront it and eradicate it. Not only is it a tremendous and growing problem in much of Africa, South Asia, Oceania and Central and South America, but the deliverance ministry in the United States is fostering a wholesale revival of belief in demons in the western world. In secularised form, meanwhile, the Early Modern concept of devil-worshipping witches underlays the satanic ritual abuse scandal in Britain and America in the 1980s and 1990s.



"Medically, there is no doubt that a literal belief in witchcraft can kill people who genuinely think they are bewitched"

Why is it particularly important to tell this story now, in the 21st century?
Because witch-hunting is still a real problem, repeatedly causing human tragedy in the 21st century. Medically, there is no doubt that a literal belief in witchcraft can kill people who genuinely think themselves bewitched. Conversely, the loss of that belief makes people completely safe from such a fate. The removal of such horrors, long and hard though the task may be, lies within our power.

The Witch is available to buy now.



Butcher, Blacksmith, Acrobat, Sweep

By Peter Cossins
Yellow Jersey, £17, hardback, 368 pages

Far from the sleek event that we know today, 1903's inaugural Tour de France was a ramshackle affair, devised as a marketing ruse and populated by larger-than-life professionals and amateurs alike. But it makes for a great story, and this is a vivid account of both the race and turn-of-the-century France.

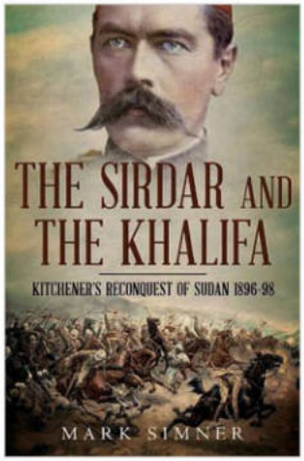


Lovers and Strangers: An Immigrant History of Post-War Britain

By Clair Wills
Allen Lane, £25, 464 pages, hardback

In the 1950s, newcomers from around the world headed to Britain to provide work. Many only expected to stay for a few years but ended up settling permanently, transforming both their own lives and the society in which they lived. This is a warm, humane look at the reality behind an often-contentious subject.

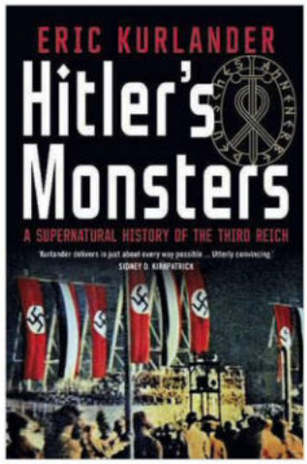
GETTY X2



The Sirdar and the Khalifa

By Mark Simner
Fonthill, £25, 272 pages, hardback

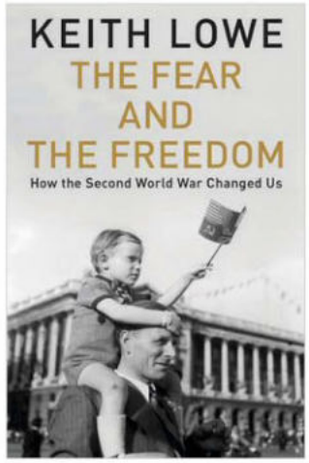
'Kitchener' is a name that is still familiar in the 21st century, even if the exact details of his exploits have become hazy. This exploration of one of his campaigns, which aimed to recapture Sudan for the British in the dying days of the 19th century, reveals the traits that made the army officer such a compelling figure.



Hitler's Monsters: A Supernatural History of the Third Reich

By Eric Kurlander
Yale, £25, 448 pages, hardback

The idea of occult forces at the heart of Nazism has had powerful cultural staying power. But as this considered, unsensational book shows, their fascination with the supernatural was very real – shaped by a desire to define it on their own terms.

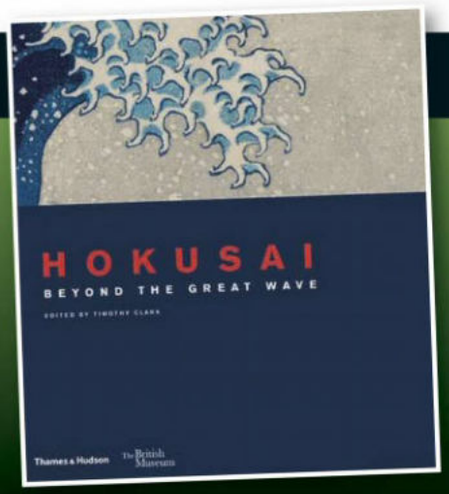


The Fear and the Freedom

By Keith Lowe
Viking, £25, 576 pages, hardback

This history of the aftermath of World War II explores the multitudes of ways in which the conflict shaped life around the globe – politically, scientifically, technologically and psychologically. It's a refreshing look at how the fighting had a profound impact on six decades, and never loses sight of the individual stories within its global scope.

VISUAL BOOK OF THE MONTH



Hokusai's prints are given space to shine in this sleek yet simple coffee-table book





Hokusai: Beyond the Great Wave

Edited by Timothy Clark
Thames and Hudson, £35, 352 pages, hardback

You may not know the name, but you'll know at least one of his works: that of an enormous wave, towering above boats caught beneath. It's the most famous by 19th-century Japanese artist Hokusai, but as this book – published to coincide with a new exhibition at the British Museum – reveals, the rest of his output reveals much about the society and nature of his native country.

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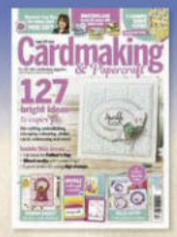


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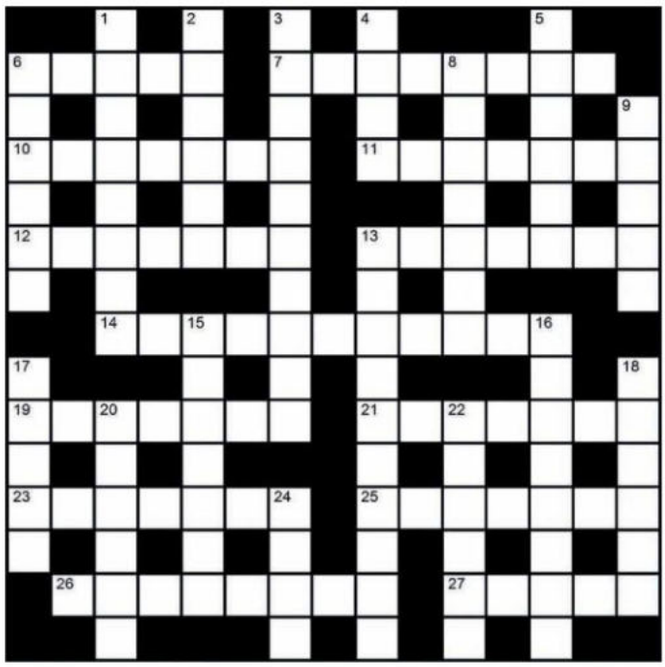
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CROSSWORD Nº 45

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

Set by Richard Smyth



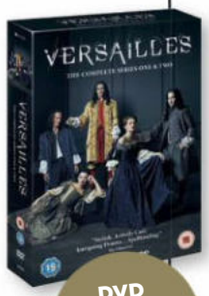
ACROSS

6 Opera of 1831 by Vincenzo Bellini (5)
7 *The* ___, 1948 Powell and Pressburger film (3,5)
10 Gottfried Wilhelm ___ (1646–1716), German philosopher and mathematician (7)
11 Duchy in East Anglia, first held by Thomas de Mowbray (d.1399) (7)
12 *Life* ___, 1979 documentary series by David Attenborough (2,5)
13 Dame Edith ___ (1887–1964), Scarborough-born poet and critic (7)
14 Term for people born in the 1960s and '70s, popularised by novelist Douglas Coupland (10,1)
19 'The ___', nickname for Joseph Haydn's Symphony No. 96 (7)
21 City of northern Italy, capital of the Western Roman Empire from 402 to 476 (7)
23 Boris ___ (b.1937), Russian chess grandmaster (7)
25 Marcus Vipsanius ___ (d.12 BCE), Roman statesman, deputy to Emperor Augustus (7)
26 Stage name of the Dutch dancer and spy Margaretha Geertruida MacLeod (1876–1917) (4,4)
27 German military submarine (1-4)

DOWN

1 City of Saxony, formerly known for its silver mines (8)
2 *Silas* ___, 1861 novel by George Eliot (6)
3 Lakota Sioux war leader (d.1877), known for his exploits at the Battle of the Little Bighorn (5,5)
4 In Norse myth, a principal deity, married to Frigg (4)
5 Christian saint (d.420), best known for translating much of the Bible into Latin (6)
6 See 8
8/6 British admiral (1758–1805), killed at Trafalgar (7,6)
9 Meaning of the Aramaic word 'golgotha', used for a hill in Jerusalem (5)
13 In Ancient Rome, a riotous religious festival held in December (10)
15 Capital city of Cyprus, known in antiquity as Ledra (7)
16 Philosopher and historian of ancient Greece (d.354 BC) (8)
17 Member of a North American Mennonite sect founded in the 1700s (5)
18 Ancient Hampshire town, badly damaged by fire in 1760 (6)
20 Ronald ___ (1911–2004), 40th President of the United States (6)
22 Site of a major World War I battle of 1916 (6)
24 'Every day is the best day in the ___' – Ralph Waldo Emerson (4)

CHANCE TO WIN



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In a calculated move to regain control of the aristocrats, Louis XIV (George Blagden) moves his court to Versailles. The nobility are less than happy with their new home, seeing it as a glorified prison. A thrilling tale of manipulation, politics and lust ensues. Released by Universal Pictures UK, £30.

HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **History Revealed, August 2017 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to **august2017@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **1 September 2017**. By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.

SOLUTION Nº 43



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The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of ***History Revealed***) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy.

The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the closing date. If the winner is unable to be contacted within one month of the closing date, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner-up.

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Could You Be A Writer?



The Writers Bureau's Writer of the Year 2017 Sarah Plater

Marian Ashcroft talks with Susie Busby, Principal of The Writers Bureau, Britain's largest independent writing school, about what it takes to be a writer.

Who do you think can be a writer then, Susie?
Well, a writer is someone who communicates ideas through words. And most of us do that every day via social media … so we're all writers to some degree.

But can you really say someone is a writer if they text and tweet?
"Not really. I suppose when we talk about a 'writer' we usually mean someone who's earning from their writing. But telling stories to friends online is writing too. And even there, you come across people who craft their sentences and play with words, which is a good indication that writing is their thing.

So, do you need to be a 'special' person to study with The Writers Bureau?
Not at all! WB has been going for 28 years now, and though some people come to us with very clear objectives, others have little more than a vague desire to do something creative. Our students come from all sorts of backgrounds, and all sorts of cultures – leafy home-counties villages, bustling African cities, and everywhere else between. The majority haven't really written much before, so we give them skills, and a safe space to explore their options, then prepare them for approaches to the editors, agents and producers who'll eventually push their work out into the world.

But you must be looking for something …
"Determination. Apart from a reasonable level of written English, that's all we're after."

Not talent?
"Well, that helps. But talent's no good if you won't put the hours in. It's the same in all the creative industries. Like Mo Farah said back in 2012 – 'Anything's possible, it's just hard work and grafting.' And in our experience, grafting beats pure talent every time.

Okay, but if someone already has that 'grafting' spirit, where does The Writers Bureau fit in?
Well, to stick with sporting analogies, for any student ready to go for it, Writers Bureau is the coach in the background. Our courses and tutors build a new writer's confidence and help them find out what they're good at. We then show them how to get pieces ready for submission, so they've got the best possible chance of turning whatever talent they may have into proper, paid work.

Is that what happened with this year's Writer of the Year – Sarah Plater?
"Exactly. When Sarah first joined us she wanted to write novels (still does). But on her course she discovered a talent for non-fiction. She's now onto her fourth non-fiction book, earns half her income from writing, and runs a writing business with her husband – Mr and Ms Creative. We're so proud of her. She's worked hard and run with opportunities as they've arisen, which just goes to show what a little confidence and determination can actually do."

Any final words of advice for aspiring writers?
Apart from taking one of our courses, you mean? No seriously, I believe a writer must do three things. Firstly, read lots, and widely. Next, write as much as possible – ideally every day. And finally, learn to edit. Anyone who can do these three things is well on the way to producing great work.

If you'd like to find out more about The Writers Bureau, take a look at their website: www.writersbureau.com or call their freephone number 0800 856 2008. Please quote 1Z717

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As a freelance writer, you can earn very good money in your spare time, writing the stories, articles, books, scripts etc that editors and publishers want. Millions of pounds are paid annually in fees and royalties. Earning your share can be fun, profitable and creatively fulfilling.

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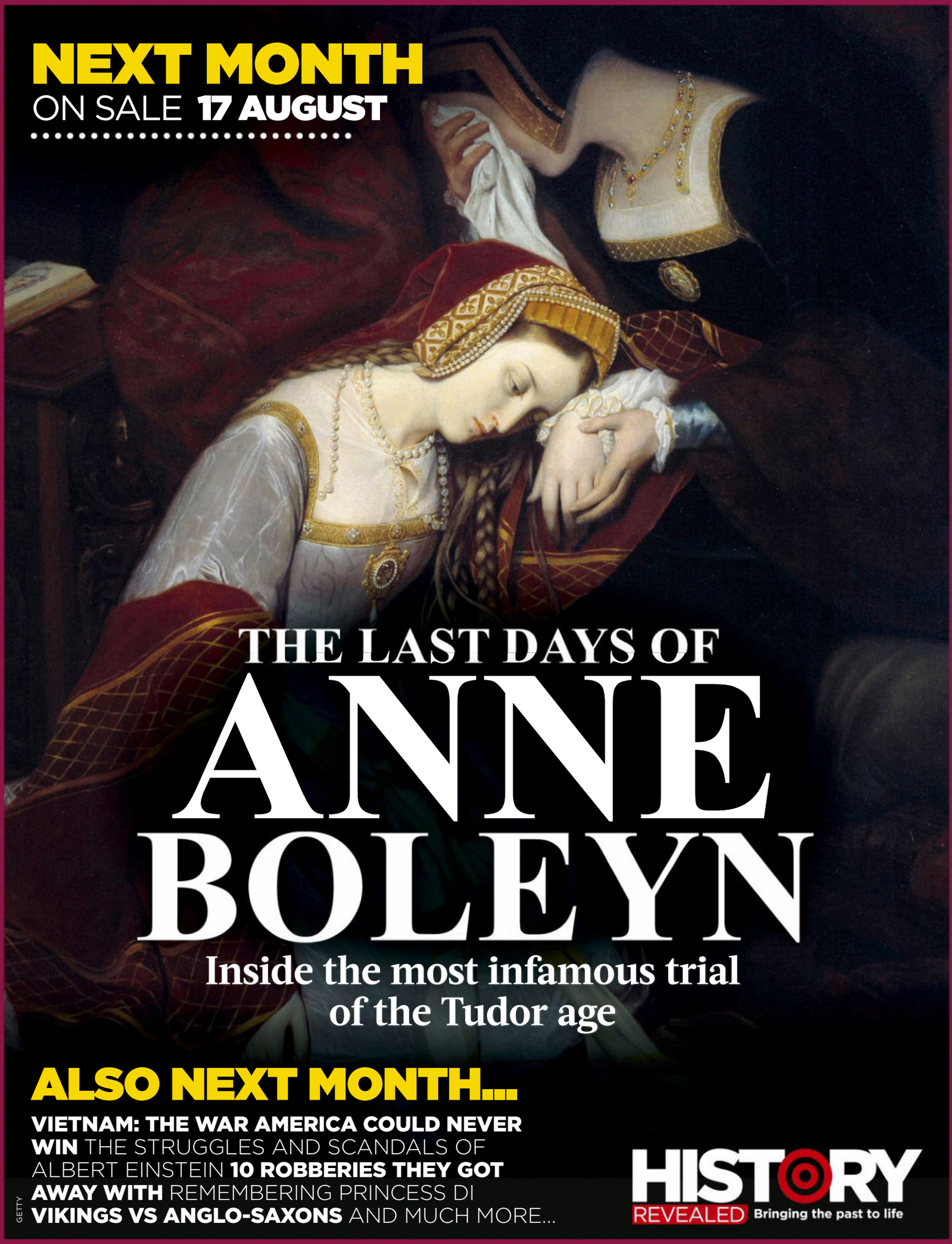
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ON SALE **17 AUGUST**



THE LAST DAYS OF ANNE BOLEYN

Inside the most infamous trial of the Tudor age

ALSO NEXT MONTH...

VIETNAM: THE WAR AMERICA COULD NEVER WIN THE STRUGGLES AND SCANDALS OF ALBERT EINSTEIN **10 ROBBERIES THEY GOT AWAY WITH** REMEMBERING PRINCESS DI **VIKINGS VS ANGLO-SAXONS** AND MUCH MORE...

GETTY

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READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine



BEACHED
The HMS *Foudroyant* met an unfortunate fate, while tourists look on

LETTER OF THE MONTH

TIGHT SHIP

You chose a wonderful photograph of the wrecked ship, HMS *Foudroyant*, on Blackpool beach in your recent issue (Snapshots, June 2017). But did you know that its owner, Wheatley Cobb, once ran the *Foudroyant* as a naval training ship for boys? Parents paid to send their sons to the vessel, where they would receive rudimentary education in the skills needed to be a sailor. Then, when they were ready to move on to the officer training ships, the boys would have a head start.

In an effort to raise more money (he estimated it cost over £4,000 a year to run the ship, and the boys' fees went only so far), Cobb decided to sail her around the coast to popular seaside resorts, and welcome the public on board – for a fee, of course. The trainees would sail the ship, aided by six qualified crewmen. Twenty-one boys were on board when disaster struck.

"For six hours the frightened young boys sheltered under the poop deck"

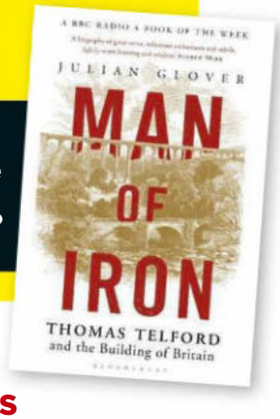
Heading for the Isle of Man before wintering in Milford Haven, on the night of 16 June 1897, she was blown ashore and wrecked at Blackpool.

Thousands watched the drama unfold from the promenade, and for six hours the frightened young boys sheltered under the poop deck as the Blackpool lifeboats attempted to rescue them. The boys sang songs and hymns to keep their courage up. In the end, nobody was drowned – but as you say, the *Foudroyant* was a total wreck.

Undaunted, Cobb's son Geoffrey bought the HMS *Trincomalee*, renamed her *Foudroyant* and carried on with his father's work. That ship is still in existence.

Phil Carradice, via email

Phil wins a copy of *Man of Iron: Thomas Telford and the Building of Britain,* by Julian Glover, worth £25. Telford was a groundbreaking engineer, building the Pontcysyllte aqueduct and introducing a network of modern roads. Explore his rise from shepherd boy to foremost engineer of his time.



POISON PILL

I had no idea about the diet pills with arsenic inside (Top 10, June 2017). How would arsenic help to lose weight? It's dangerous, and people might have taken more than they were prescribed!

Claire Gooder, via email

IMMEASURABLE GIFT

I love your magazine and enjoyed the article on King Arthur (March 2017).

I was disappointed, however, that the top five film adaptations did not include Bresson's wonderful *Lancelot of the Lake*. Bresson's themes, religious concerns and his use of the natural world give poignancy to the search for the Grail, the importance of loyalty, and the complexity of love.

Every guest I have had has become hooked on your magazine. I ordered it during my husband's long bout against Parkinson's. He very much enjoyed me reading the articles – well-done and informative but short enough for him to absorb in one sitting. Your work helped his last days – an immeasurable gift. Thank you.

Geraldine Pittman de Battle, Vermont



OVERDOSE DANGER

Our article on fad diets from history (Top 10, June 2017) exposed the deadliest diets

AT THE PICTURES

I just read your June issue – another great job! In your article on the drive-in movie (Q&A), you mentioned a possible reason why Richard Hollingshead Jr opened the first such theatre. He was inspired by his mother, a large woman who found traditional cinema seats uncomfortable. In an attempt to bring the movies to her, Hollingshead mounted a movie projector to the hood of his car, projected the film onto a sheet nailed to trees in his backyard and placed a radio behind it.

Growing up in New Jersey, I remember that going to the drive-in was a fun family night out. Many offered attractions such as playgrounds, miniature golf, train rides and snack bars

Thanks to the piece on fad diets in @HistoryRevMag, I think I may have finally found a regime I can follow. #PintOfWine
@JohnBizzell

as well as two movies. During the '70s there were some that showed nothing but Disney films in the summer.

Then in August 1991, the *New York Times* announced that the last drive-in theatre in New Jersey would close. 'Outdoor movies' (as we used to call them) would seemingly go the way of the grand movie theatre palaces, giving way to the multiplexes of today. However, like the fashion industry, if you wait long enough, some things come back in style. In 2004, the Delsea Drive-in, which closed in 1987, reopened and is still in business in 2017. Perhaps this is the start of a new trend. And why not? We were all ready to give up on 3D technology at the end of the fifties... and then came *Avatar*!
Marie Haisan,
Pennsylvania

MISTAKES MADE

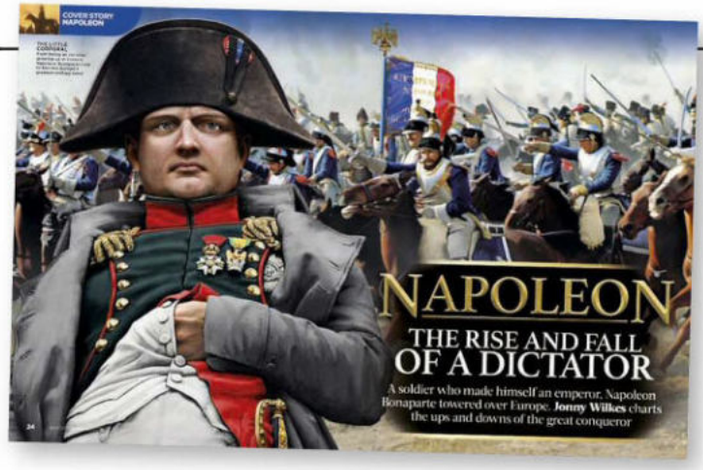
As a member of the Napoleonic Society, I want to thank Jonny Wilkes for a clever and thoroughly researched article (Napoleon, July 2017). I was always an admirer of Bonaparte. As a child I took part in school fancy dress competitions, and I dressed up as the man himself. Believe me it was a sight to see!

One of Napoleon's many battles was in Egypt against the Mamluks. The Emperor took along many scholars, botanists and scientists on his expeditions (including Champollion, who discovered the Rosetta Stone), which extended the knowledge of European academics greatly.

However, like a lot of human beings, he made mistakes. In Egypt, some of those made it into the newspapers of the time. One memorable incident concerned his treatment of his troops who fell ill. According to his chief doctor, Napoleon contemptuously ordered his army doctors to cut the rations of wounded men. When he came back to France, he would not acknowledge these men. His treatment of prisoners in Spain was also brutal. Goya painted such a scene, now exhibited in the Prado Museum, Madrid.

Lastly, everyone knows about his failure in Russia. The withdrawal from Russia subsequently led to his exile to Elba, and the peace conference at Vienna. Napoleon, being the super villain of the time, escaped and landed back in France. The last curtain call was Waterloo, but after that debacle he was shipped off to St Helena, and died five years later at Longwood House.

Napoleon was a great, bad man, but when compared with any other dictator, none of them are as admired as he is.
Duncan McVee,
via email



THE GREAT DICTATOR

Napoleon is often viewed as a military genius, but he did make a number of key mistakes – which eventually led to his downfall

FOLLOW UP

I became a subscriber to your wonderful magazine *History Revealed* in November 2016. I look forward to receiving it each month. It's hard to put it down, once you start to read. Your article in the June 2017 issue on the Hundred Years' War was excellent. But may I suggest a follow up on the Wars of the Roses in 1450? I know the name, but not what it was about.
Sheila Morris,
Kent

I'd like to see a story about the history of leper colonies, for example, how wills were executed before the person with leprosy had even died!
Suzanne Dock

ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 43 are:
Alan Gee, Bletchley
John Dashwood, Gravesend
Alan Moreton, Southend

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of ***Hacksaw Ridge***. This Oscar-winning movie tells the story of conscientious objector Desmond Doss, braving war in order to save his fellow men.

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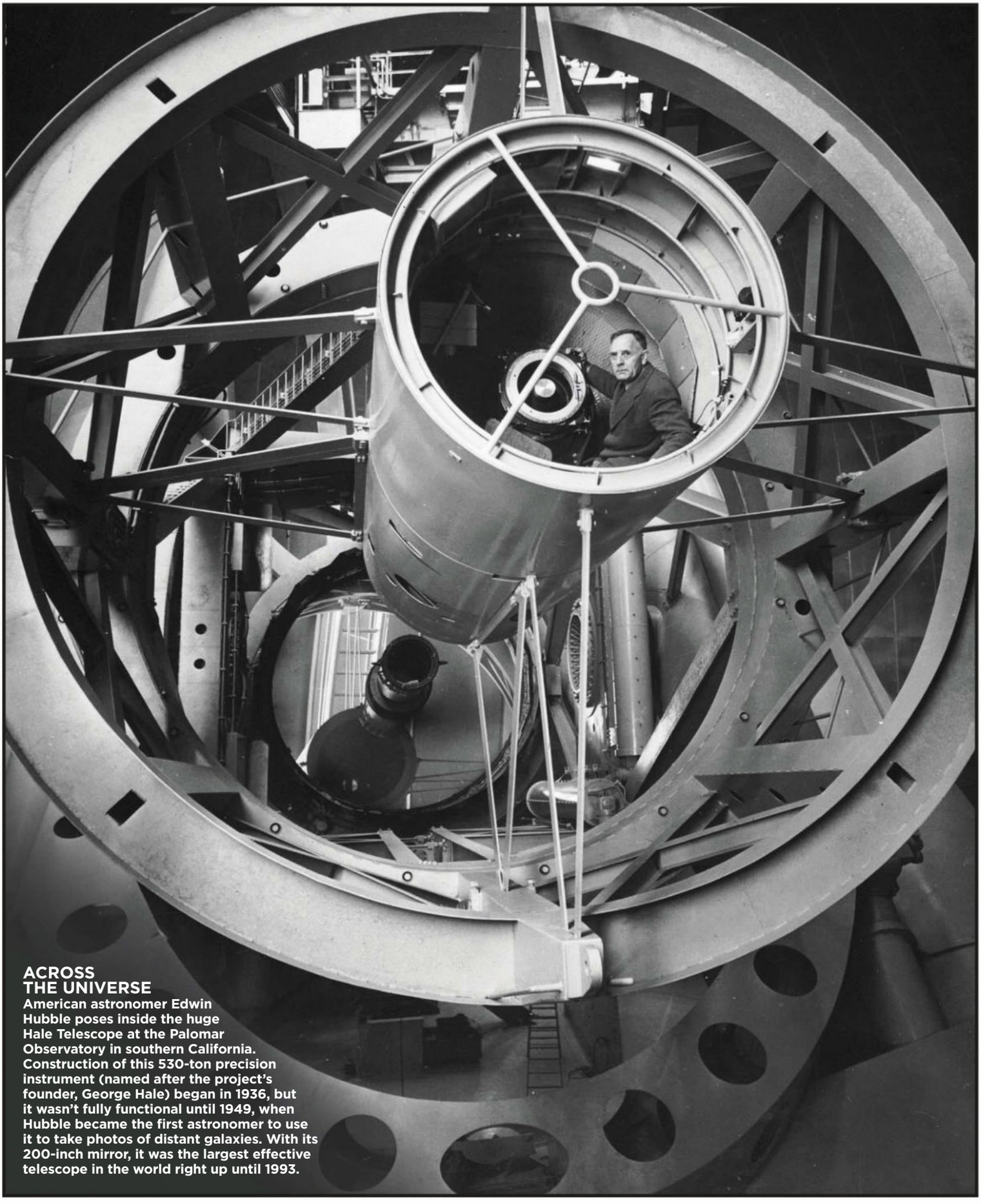
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ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
American astronomer Edwin Hubble poses inside the huge Hale Telescope at the Palomar Observatory in southern California. Construction of this 530-ton precision instrument (named after the project's founder, George Hale) began in 1936, but it wasn't fully functional until 1949, when Hubble became the first astronomer to use it to take photos of distant galaxies. With its 200-inch mirror, it was the largest effective telescope in the world right up until 1993.

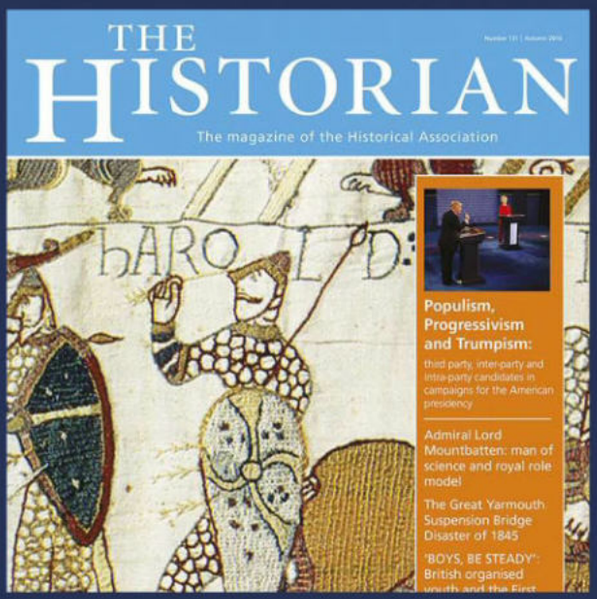
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